



See page 2 for Year of the NCO article.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for June 3, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



ATC supporting training exercise

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground is supporting a training exercise through May 29. Both day and nighttime exercises will be conducted.

Activities may take place in APG's restricted waters. Activities can include weapons firing and the use of multiple watercraft.

Residents and boaters in the surrounding communities may hear weapons firing. Illumination devices may create flashes of light visible off post.

Questions should be directed to 410-278-1147/1153 or 800-688-8705.

DES changes hours at gates

The operational hours of the Wise Road Gate have been temporarily extended to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Wise Road Gate is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

RAB meeting at Richlin Ballroom

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., May 28, at the Richlin Ballroom, 1700 Van Bibber Road in Edgewood.

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APG celebrates Armed Forces Day



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, left, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, gazes at a ceremonial tree dedicated to Gold Star Families after its unveiling during the Aberdeen Proving Ground Armed Forces Day celebration at Fanshaw Field May 16. Sgt. Elizabeth D. Thompson, the APG Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, left, and Soldier of the Year Sgt. Benjamin Salazar, right, performed the unveiling. For the complete story on APG's Armed Forces Day activities, see pages 13, 14 and 17.

Enjoying a safe summer: A team effort

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

The Army is reinforcing its commitment to protecting members of the Army Family with the launch of the Safe Summer 2009 campaign.

This year's annual campaign, runs May through September and will emphasize prevention and vigilance during the summer season, a time that the Army typically experiences an increase in off-duty accidental fatalities.

"Every member of our Army Family plays an important role in keeping our team safe, especially during high-risk summer activities," said Brig. Gen. William Wolf, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center com-



manding general and director of Army Safety. "The goal of the Safe Summer 2009 campaign is to provide Soldiers, Army civilians and their Family members the information they need to manage risk and thereby decrease the chance of inci-

dents, accidents and injuries."

To achieve this important goal, the Army Safety Center has created a Safe Summer 2009 Campaign Web site containing posters, articles and videos relating to nearly 20 summer safety topics. The site

allows officials at installations around the globe the opportunity to tailor their summer safety campaigns to meet the needs of their individual populations.

"The enemy 'risk' can be defeated, but it takes teamwork," said USACR/Safety Center Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell. "The team effort involves leaders, Soldiers, civilians and Family members both on and off duty, protecting our most precious resource and to ensure 'no one stands alone.' Let's enjoy the summer, but do it safely."

For more information on the 2009 Safe Summer Campaign, visit <https://safety.army.mil> and look for the Safe Summer logo at the bottom of the Web page.



Courtesy of U.S. Army

An incident and resulting fire broke out in a Soviet era T-55 Main Battle Tank, like the one pictured above, that was being tested April 21 on Aberdeen Proving Ground. The accident killed one U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center employee and injured two others. Investigators from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center/Safety Center located at Fort Rucker, Ala., are on site trying to piece together events and determine the cause of the tragedy.

Testing accident at APG claims one, injures two others

Story by GARY HOLLOWAY
ATC

An accident on an Aberdeen Proving Ground range in the Edgewood Area occurring shortly after 9:30 a.m., on May 21, claimed the life of one worker and seriously injured two others.

The three-person crew had just begun test firing a 100mm round from a T-55 Main Battle Tank when the accident occurred and subsequent fire broke out.

Killed was 48-year-old Mark Henry of Delta, Pa., a test director in the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center Aviation and Foreign Systems Division.

Injured were Douglas Mauzy, 50, and Joseph Gray, 32, both of Aberdeen. Both Mauzy and Gray were flown to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for treatment of their injuries.

"The entire ATC team is in mourning. Mark Henry was an outstanding engineer, an outstanding employee and an outstanding human being. His Family suffered a tragic loss and remains in our thoughts and prayers," said Col. Jeffrey Holt, ATC commander. "We also are praying for the recovery of Doug Mauzy and Joe Gray. This is a sobering reminder that the work we do here is dangerous and can be devastating."

Services for Henry were conducted May 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the South Nook Area of Mifflin, Pa. He was interred at the adjoining church cemetery.

The accident is being investigated by a team from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center/Safety Center located at Fort Rucker, Ala. Team members arrived May 22 and worked over

See ACCIDENT, page 4

MOS changes coming to Army's job classification system

Thousands must retrain, switch jobs Oct. 1 as recoding initiative winds down

Story by JIM TICE
Army Times

Tens of thousands of Soldiers must retrain and switch specialties to move their careers forward as a result of the latest overhaul to the Army's job classification system.

The changes apply to active, Reserve and Guard troops and brings an end to a nine-year effort to recode officer and enlisted military occupational specialties and take effect this summer.

Thousands of ordnance Soldiers will get a new career-field designator, some MOSs will disappear with the vintage weapons that they serviced, and the Army will establish a new career field in electronic warfare.

The new job codes and reclassifications take effect Oct. 1, but personnel records and unit manning documents will be updated beginning June 1.

What's going, what's new

Major changes scheduled for this year include recoding all Ordnance Corps jobs to CMF 91, a new career management field designator for mechanical maintenance troops. In the process, nearly 20 Ordnance Corps specialties will be eliminated; 17 others remain.

Ordnance is the second largest branch with about 115,000 Soldiers, behind quartermaster with more than 130,000.

In another action, the

National Guard and Army Reserve are eliminating the 14R and 14M specialties, which operate the Bradley Linebacker and man-portable air defense systems.

Three commissioned officer specialties — AOC 14B, 14D and 14E — dealing with short-range air defense systems, and the Hawk and Patriot missile systems will also be deleted. Officers will be transferred to 14A, the lone area of concentration for air defense artillery.

Two special codes are used for enlisted Soldiers:

- An additional skill identifier, or ASI, is used to designate enlisted Soldiers with a special skill closely associated with a specialty, but is not taught in the basic MOS course. Usually it is related to a certain piece of equipment or special function, Newman said.

- A special qualification identifier, or SQI, represents a skill set that normally is not associated with a particular enlisted MOS but has Army-wide application, such as airborne qualifications, drill sergeant and detailed recruiting.

Highlights of other changes scheduled for Oct. 1 include:

- A new special reporting code, 09Q, to identify and manage enlisted Soldiers assigned to the Legal Immigrant Healthcare Professional Officer Candidate Program.

Once the Soldier is commissioned, the reporting code

See MOS, page 4



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO



A pageant of Soldiers dressed in period uniforms was part of the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's concert, "Esprit de Corps," a tribute to the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer held at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater May 15.

AMC Band plays special tribute to NCOs

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band performed "Esprit de Corps," a music and video tribute to the Noncommissioned Officer at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater May 15.

2009 has been declared the year of the NCO by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey Jr. and Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston. This year of emphasis spotlights the role of the NCO in the Army. One of the reasons for the initiative is to recognize the contributions that NCOs have made in the past and currently make every day.

The program featured solos by NCOs in the AMC Band, while profiles highlighting their achievements since enlisting in the Army showed on the screen.

The AMC Band is under the command of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick L. Ellwein. Sgt. Maj. Wendy Thomson, band leader, conceived, produced and conducted the concert. Sgt. Samuel Yoo narrated the event.

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Command

Sgt. Maj. Hector G. Marin provided welcoming remarks. He said that NCOs have made great contributions in the Army.

"Throughout the Army's history, whenever tactics or technologies have changed, the role of the NCO has also changed," he said. "As the battlefield became more and more decentralized, NCOs were asked to step up and take on more leadership duties."

Marin said that the roles have come into clearer focus since the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

"Our enemies know they have no hope in surviving a head-to-head battle with our Army, so instead they specialize in attacking small teams, convoys and isolated outposts." Marin said that this means that NCOs are often the senior leaders during those types of encounters, and they are ready for the challenge.

"Despite the sacrifice, our Soldiers and Families continue to sign up and keep serving our nation," Marin said. "That says a lot about the Army's strength--a strength that comes from our values, from our warrior ethos and from NCO leadership."

Marin added that he thinks that NCOs are the Army's secret weapon.

"Armies around the world want to find out how to make their sergeants like our sergeants, and you can bet our enemies know how good our sergeants are," Marin said. "Our NCOs are something of a secret to the American public. This is something we need to change during the Year of the NCO. The NCO Corps has more than two hundred years of service and has distinguished itself as the most accomplished group of military professionals in the world."

The first song of the night was "American Visions" by Travis J. Weller, accompanied by a pageant of Soldiers dressed in uniforms from the past showing the history of the Army through costume.

After a bass trombone solo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Davis, there was a set of rock and pop songs led by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen J. Spohn, last year's NCO of the Year.

During "Citizen Soldier" by 3 Doors Down, a video was played honoring the work that Soldiers do on a daily basis. The concert concluded with three patriotic songs, "We Were There," "When You Are a Soldier" and "America the Beautiful" featuring vocalists Sgt. 1st Class Deborah Levine, Yoo, Sgt. Anthony

Gentilo and Sgt. Ericka Escalante.

After the concert, Master Sgt. Rebecca Booker, an NCO who works at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, said that she enjoyed the concert.

"I greatly appreciate that the Army is recognizing NCOs this year, and I think APG is doing a great job of having events to recognize our achievements. It makes me proud to be an NCO," Booker said. "I felt like the music that they chose really appealed to the audience."

Booker continued that she felt like the program was a fun and entertaining way to educate the young Advanced Individual Training Soldiers of the roles and responsibilities of an NCO.

"The young Soldiers are our future NCOs," she said. "The rank of an NCO is something they can look forward to achieving."

The program was organized to not only entertain but also to educate the audience about the role of the NCO and to inspire said Thomson.

"I am proud of the work of the NCO Corps, and we wanted to let Soldiers know that they are appreciated," Thomson said.

'Soldier-borne' Chem-Bio Reconnaissance System fielded

Story by
**USAF MAJ
SCOTT A. SCHROER**
JPM NBC-CA JNBCRS Program Office

The Joint Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, and Radiological community celebrated a milestone in March when the 12th Chemical Company in Grafenwoehr, Germany, became the first U.S. military unit to field a Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical reconnaissance system tailorable to mission requirements. The ceremony was held one day after the 21st anniversary of the worst chemical attack on a civilian population, when Saddam Hussein killed more than 5,000 Kurds in 1988.

The Joint Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Reconnaissance System, or JNBCRS, was presented to the unit by Col. Kyle Burke, the Joint Project Manager for NBC Contamination Avoidance, Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense during a handoff ceremony. The JNBCRS is comprised of CBRN sets, kits and outfits. The system consists of both commercial



12th Chemical Company Soldiers enter a suspected clandestine lab after determining with CBRN detectors that the lab was safe to enter during a Scenario Training Exercise administered by a Mobile Training Team from the Army CBRN School.

and government off-the-shelf equipment to provide personnel protection from CBRN hazards (including toxic industrial chemicals and materials), CBRN detection, presumptive identification, sample collection, decontamination, marking and hazard reporting.

The 12th Chemical Compa-

ny is part of Special Troops Battalion, V Corps, at Grafenwoehr. Lieutenant Colonel Khalil Karadshi, V Corps deputy CBRN officer and Sgt. Maj. Mark Barron, V Corps CBRN sergeant major, attended the ceremony. Other attendees included members of U.S. European Command's Emergency Man-

agement Assessment Team and Chemical Corps Soldiers from the nearby 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

The JNBCRS increases the Joint Force capability to conduct dismounted CBRN reconnaissance in confined spaces and terrain that is inaccessible to CBRN reconnaissance vehicles,

to characterize hazardous material events or accidents, and to conduct weapons of mass detection or denial operations. The JNBCRS enables Joint Forces to detect and identify CBRN contamination and collect samples for confirmatory analysis in support of strategic WMD elimination and interdiction operations, homeland defense consequence management operations and tactical force protection operations.

A basic mission for 12th Chemical Company Soldiers and future JNBCRS users would involve donning personal protective gear, loading up with hand-held sensors, sample-collection devices and walking into a suspected CBRN contaminated environment. While in this "hot" zone, the Warfighters would search for WMD material. If found, a sample would be collected, the location marked and the occurrence reported. Upon exiting the contaminated environment, the Warfighters and their equipment would be decontaminated

See SYSTEM, page 3

Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

APG News

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System

From page 2

and the sample sent off for laboratory analysis. All of this is accomplished with capability provided via JNBCRS. Fundamentally, JNBCRS turns a Warfighter into a mobile platform for CBRN sensors and equipment . . . a “Soldier-borne” system.

On March 10, 2008, the Army validated V Corps’ Operational Need Statement for a dismounted CBRN reconnaissance capability specifically for the 12th Chemical Company, U.S. European Command’s only organic Chemical Company. Joint Forces have operated, and continue to operate, in environments containing toxic industrial chemicals and toxic industrial materials posing threats to Warfighters, civilians and the environment. In many instances, TICs and TIMs have posed a greater actual threat than that of traditional WMD. Joint Forces have encountered situations ranging from unknown dangerous chemicals used in improvised explosive device labs and factories to abandoned unknown bulk hazardous material storage areas.

The need to detect TICs, TIMs, and CBRN threats continues to increase as Joint Forces encounter non-standard and unique situations involving toxic and unknown chemicals that are undetectable and/or unidentifiable by standard Joint Force detection and protection capabilities. In short, there is a dismounted CBRN reconnaissance capability gap across the Joint Force.

In addition to V Corps’ ONS, other congruent urgent need statements have been validated and approved for JPM NBCCA to field a limited quantity of equipment sets, throughout 2009, under its JNBCRS program. This effort to field equipment sets in support of urgent needs is the initial phase (i.e. Urgent Need Phase) of the multi-phased JNBCRS program. Each of these equipment sets is sized for squad-level operations and is integrated into two transportable, environmentally-controlled quadcon shipping containers. These equipment sets will provide dismounted Warfighters and homeland defenders in select Army Chemical units of the Active and Reserve Components with a CBRN reconnaissance capability providing commanders with battlefield and event awareness.

Joint Project Manager NBC-CA fields relevant operational capability to the Joint Warfighter at a relevant time. Under the command of the Joint Program Execu-



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army
12th Chemical Company Soldiers operate equipment after receiving hands-on training

tive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense, JPM NBC-CA is responsible for the development, production, integration, testing and fielding of CBRN detection, obscuration and reconnaissance systems. Joint Project Manager NBC-CA is partnering with the Edgewood Chemical & Manufacturing Division, a component of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, to design, produce, field and sustain the equipment sets of the Urgent Need Phase. This partnership represents an entirely government in-house approach to executing the Urgent Need Phase. ADM provides integrated development services specializing in accelerated acquisition activities. Joint Project Manager NBC-CA’s systems acquisition expertise coupled with ADM’s engineering and fabrication expertise make it a certainty that the JNBCRS Urgent Need Phase provides a war-winning capability to the Joint Force.

Upon receiving the first validated urgent need statement, a Joint Urgent Operational Need Statement from U.S. Northern Command, the JNBCRS Urgent Need Phase began with reviewing after action reports from Multi National Corps – Iraq, conducting market research, interviewing Warfighters, reviewing test reports and gathering lessons learned from experiments and similar capability in the field. All of that resulted in a design to facilitate rapid fielding of suitable capability. As the welfare of the Joint Warfighter is of paramount concern, a Capabilities and Limitation Report and a

Safety Confirmation from the Army Test and Evaluation Command and a Health Hazard Assessment from the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine were required prior to fielding an Urgent Need system. Thus, a system-level developmental test, an operational assessment (with 12th Chemical Company providing the system operators), and a component-level safety evaluation of the Urgent Need Phase system design were conducted. Satisfactory results permitted fielding with the 12th Chemical Company being the first recipient of JNBCRS.

As an integral part of fielding, JPM NBCCA provided 40 hours of New Equipment Training to 39 Soldiers of 12th Chemical Company at their home station in Grafenwoehr. In addition to NET, the Army CBRN School exported their three-week-long Dismounted CBRN Reconnaissance Course, via a Mobile Training Team from Fort Leonard Wood,

Mo., to Grafenwoehr to provide HazMat Awareness, Operations, and Technician Certification training to 12th Chemical Company as part of fielding. The MTT certified 35 Soldiers as HazMat technicians, which was the first time a Defense Department training institution certified Warfighters as HazMat techs in the field away from the institution.

Today, the JNBCRS program is meeting urgent operational needs, delivering systems to the Army’s V Corps in Europe and units in the 48th Chemical Brigade in advance of future deployments and to Joint Forces in NORTHCOM in support of their CBRN Consequence Management Response Force mission. Subsequent phases of the JNBCRS program will develop and deliver a new design fully tested and proven to meet joint objective and threshold capabilities to include integrated logistics support. On September 26, 2008, the \$711M contract to execute these subsequent phases was awarded, which solves for the non-standard, uncommon, non-integrated, unverified, non-scalable, and unsupported commercial-off-the-shelf based applications to Joint Force dismounted CBRN reconnaissance. JNBCRS pushes key capability to the frontline fight against terror on the integrated battlefield and the home front.

ARL-SLAD engineer also an accomplished painter



Photos by RICH ZIGLER, ARL
“Bay Breeze,” a painting by Rich Zigler of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, was displayed earlier this year in the Lowe Delegates Office Building in Annapolis next to Delegate Susan McComas’ office door.

ARL

The term “renaissance man” is often associated with artist Leonardo DaVinci, but can connote any person who excels in multiple fields, especially the arts and sciences. The U.S. Army Research Laboratory has its very own renaissance man in Rich Zigler of the Survivability/Lethality Analysis Directorate located at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Zigler, a general engineer in SLAD’s Warfighter Survivability Branch, is a painter in his spare time. In December, he had one of his works chosen for display in the Lowe Delegates Office Building in Annapolis. “Bay Breeze,” which depicts five sailors on a boat in a stormy sea, is a framed watercolor painting 22 inches high by 30 inches wide.

The watercolor was submitted along with a number of paintings by other artists from Baltimore, Cecil and Harford counties for the exhibit, which was displayed during the last session of the Maryland General Assembly, which ended April 14.

“Bay Breeze” could be found outside the office of Delegate Susan McComas, chair of the eight Delegates from Harford County. It was selected to be dis-

played by itself on a wall so that along the exhibit corridor, most of the paintings are hung on the left, with Zigler’s work hanging by itself on the right.

The event organizer’s husband had noted that the watercolor “deserved a wall all by itself.”

Zigler, who started painting when he was 14 and returned to it as a hobby five years ago, was surprised but gratified by the painting’s selection for the exhibit.

“It’s well beyond what I expected,” he noted.

He credits his recent success in part to a few courses he took at Harford Community College. After some initial success, the instructors encouraged him to paint whatever he wanted, and subsequently urged him to enter his work in the exhibit.

Zigler painted “Bay Breeze” over a 10-week period last autumn. To date he has completed 20 paintings. He plans to enter his work in future exhibits, starting with a local show in 2010.

Zigler has been with ARL since 1993 and serves as the Army MANPRINT Soldier Survivability point of contact.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Tri-State College, Ind., and his MBA from Saint Francis College, Ind.

Zigler also appeared as an extra in a film on the Battle of Gettysburg.

Accident

From front page

the weekend to begin putting together the events leading to the accident and assessing the cause.

The T-55 Main Battle Tank was produced by the Soviet Union between 1958 and 1981 and is considered to be the single most common tank type in the world today. A wide array of upgrades are available from many manufacturers in different countries, including new engines, reactive armor, new main armament, active protection suites, laser range-finders, and thermal sights. These improvements make it a potent main battle tank for Third World countries and other nations with limited budgets, even to this day.

MOS

From front page

will be replaced by his or her branch specialty code.

- The deletion of enlisted MOS 44C, financial management technician, and the transfer of Soldiers to new MOS 36B.

- A new additional skill identifier, N8, to track warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers who complete the Combat Service Support Automation Management Office Course. Skills taught in the newly redesigned course are associated with several support and service MOSs.

- The elimination of specialties for two vintage weapons systems, warrant officer MOS 152G for the AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter and AOC 14D for commissioned officers for the Hawk air defense missile.

- New skill identifiers U8 and U9 to identify and track personnel, both officers and enlisted, and positions associated with asymmetric warfare operations.

Future realignments

An upcoming change, unrelated to ADS XXI, will see officer, warrant officer and enlisted engineer Soldiers recoded from 21 series specialties to 12 series codes in 2011, Newman said.

Also on tap for 2011 will be the establishment of a new branch, Logistics BR 90, for commissioned officers.

Newman said actions related to the branch are ongoing.

“The personnel side of this is not particularly complex; it’s the documentation [unit manning authorizations] that we’re wrestling with,” he said.

Newman said the realignment that takes effect Oct. 1 includes the last of the Army Development System XXI proposals approved by Army leaders nearly 10 years ago.

“It has taken us this long because of the massive changes involving both positions and personnel,” Newman said.

The recoding effort began as an outgrowth of the ADS XXI study that called for development of multi-skilled Soldiers, a sharp reduction in the number of enlisted specialties and a standard job coding system for the Army, including officer, enlisted, active duty and reserve components.

Specialties that change undergo a three-year review between the time they are proposed by service schools and other specialty proponents until their effective date.

Because the Army is constantly changing, Newman said there are at least 100 changes to the system each year.

When ADS XXI began, the Army had more than 200 entry-level MOSs. Now it has about 150.

(Editor’s note: Reprinted with permission.)

MRICD hosts Joint Requirements Office visit

Story by
CINDY KRONMAN
MRICD

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense hosted an afternoon visit by members of the Joint Requirements Office March 17.

The principal visitor Rear Adm. Archer M. Macy Jr., the director of the Joint Requirements Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense, is also the director of the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Office, and deputy director for Force Protection, in the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate (J8) of the Joint Staff.

Col. Harry F. Slife, commander, MRICD, welcomed the visitors with an overview briefing on the institute, which was followed by a tour of several laboratories for more in-depth discussions of specific research programs.

First on the tour was the medical diagnostics program, under the direction of Dr. Benedict Capacio, who described

the methodology and techniques developed at MRICD to verify chemical warfare agent exposure in the Warfighter. Methods developed include analysis of urinary and blood/plasma biomarkers of exposure. Capacio also took the visitors through MRICD’s chemical surety material laboratory, a special facility for the storage, usage and distribution of chemical warfare agents.

Next Drs. Douglas Cerasoli and David Lenz discussed efforts to develop stoichiometric and catalytic bioscavenger enzymes and the capacity of these bioscavengers to protect people against poisoning by organophosphorus nerve agents. The focus of their briefing was on the rational design mutagenesis efforts, the biochemical enzyme characterization work and the efficacy studies being conducted both at MRICD and by its partner laboratories.

In the simulation and modeling lab, Richard Sweeney talked about the capability to provide theoretical and numerical solutions for difficult analytical prob-

lems as well as MRICD’s computational chemistry and molecular simulation and visualization capability. Results from a molecular dynamics simulation of the oxime HI6 in cyclosarin-inhibited acetylcholinesterase, which was performed on the DoD high performance computing cluster at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, were presented using three-dimensional viewing capability.

Dr. Robert Kan and Tracey Hamilton demonstrated the institute’s advanced imaging capabilities, which include its state-of-the-art JEOL 7401F field emission scanning electron microscope. The microscope allows biological specimens to be viewed at ultra-high resolution using low voltages. They described several ongoing collaborative projects with other Army research labs and Kan’s research effort to develop promethazine, an FDA-approved anti-cholinergic drug, as a new pretreatment or treatment for exposure to chemical warfare nerve agents.

Combating the brain injury that can result from seizures caused by expo-

sure to nerve agents is the focus of a major portion of the institute’s research program. In the anticonvulsant and neuroprotectant test lab where nerve agent-induced seizures and potential treatments are evaluated, Dr. John McDonough described some of the model systems being used in these studies.

Also included in the tour was the institute’s Collaborative Research Facility, where the visitors were briefed by the CRF chief scientist Dr. Neil Jensen. The CRF provides a venue through which scientists external to the MRICD can collaborate on medical chemical defense projects by having the portion of the project related to dilute chemical agent exposure conducted by the CRF staff.

Accompanying Macy from JRO-CBRN were Lenny Izzo, the technical director, Army Lt. Cols. Robert von Tersch, chief of the Medical Branch, and Jeffery Steel, chief of the Concepts, Studies and Analyses Branch, and Air Force Lt. Col. Craig Smyser, chief of the Mission Area Integration Branch.

Army employee, musician friend organize local benefit golf tournament

Story by
MIKE CAST
Army Developmental Test Command

Several years ago, Joseph McKeever, an employee with the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, and his close friend, Dennis Schocket, a local musician, were discussing what they might do to support their local community. It occurred to them that an agency serving developmentally disabled citizens, such as the ARC Northern Chesapeake Region in Harford County, would be a worthwhile organization to help out. So they visited the office of the ARC NCR, were given a tour of the place and decided to organize a charity golf tournament

to raise funds for the agency.

Their first tournament took place in the summer of 2003, and since then, the event has morphed into an annual fundraiser that takes place every July.

Billed as the “Annual Starbelly Golf Outing,” after the name of Schocket’s band, the tournament has netted about \$13,500 since 2003.

This past year’s tournament was the most successful ever, raking in some \$3,000 for the ARC NCR, McKeever said.

He does much of the logistical legwork to pull together each annual tournament, and Schocket gets many of the golfers to participate in the tournament, in addition to providing musical enter-

tainment for tournament participants. Ten volunteers help organize the fundraiser as well.

“We wanted to find something that was local, where all the money stayed right here in the area,” McKeever said of the tournament genesis. “I had earlier in my life donated a car to the ARC, and I thought, ‘Well, I’ll go to the ARC and talk to somebody there.’”

As it turned out, he and Schocket were invited to one of the agency’s open-

houses which take place every month, and the tour they received there convinced them the ARC was an organization they had to support.

“They gave us the whole tour, and we met a lot of the people who get services there,” McKeever recalled. “It’s a fantastic organization for giving these people a better life. They would be lost in the system if the government was taking care of them. For the people who need it, it’s

See BENEFIT, page 7

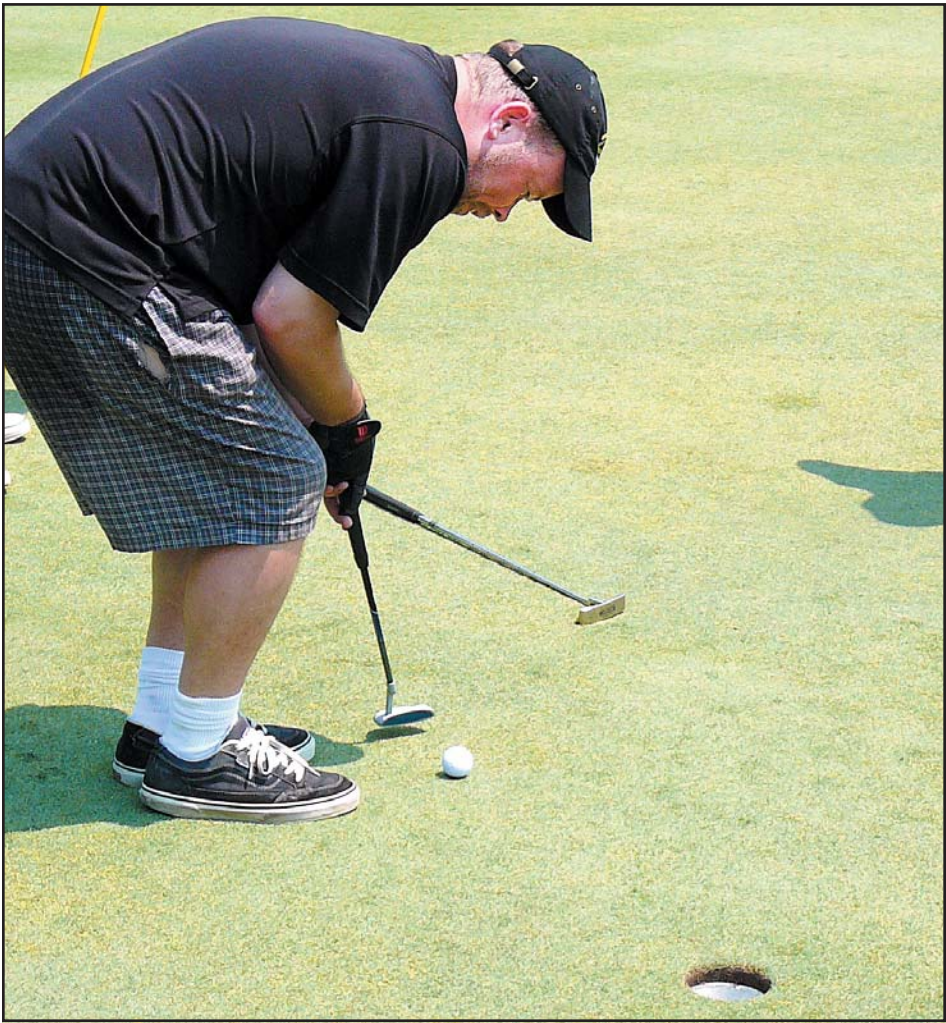


Photo courtesy of JOSEPH MCKEEVER
Andy Baxter prepares to sink a putt during the Annual Starbelly Golf Outing, a fundraiser that provides money to the ARC Northern Chesapeake Region, an organization that provides various services to people with developmental disabilities.



Army Team C4ISR recruits former recruits

Story by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
CECOM LCMC (Forward)

Transition seems to be a constant in military life. Since the congressionally mandated 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law was announced, affected military installations began preparations to receive and transition personnel to and from other assignments.

The U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, in conjunction with Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, has identified its recruitment needs to sustain its transition mission from Fort Monmouth, N.J., to Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Recently, the CECOM LCMC and Army Team C4ISR participated in an Employer Networking Event at Walter Reed Army Medical Center hosted by its U.S. Army Garri-

son, Human Resources Directorate, Transition Employment Assistance Management Service or TEAMS.

“We know and appreciate the sacrifices that Soldiers make. The skill sets Soldiers acquire while on active duty are valuable to our mission,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Johnson, CECOM LCMC. “We want to raise awareness about the job opportunities in CECOM LCMC and Army Team C4ISR. By participating in an event like this one, we can speak directly to wounded warriors and Soldiers in transition and let them know we are interested in what they have to offer.”

This monthly job fair was originally established to directly link Soldiers in transition with employers, according to Alicia Ross, corporate employment coordinator with TEAMS.

“Here, the employers are from the federal and private sec-

tor,” Ross said. “In fact, we have opened up the job fairs to our entire Walter Reed population, including active duty Soldiers, Reservists, wounded warriors, DA [Department of the Army] civilians and contractors.”

Walter Reed is scheduled to close as a result of the 2005 BRAC implementation scheduled for completion by September 2011.

The job fair is part of a larger program designed to assist personnel in transition, to include resume development, interview techniques and career coaching and counseling.

“We aim to link qualified Soldiers with employers to help facilitate a smooth transition to civilian life,” said Donald Walker, federal employment coordinator with TEAMS. “I look forward to establishing partnerships with C4ISR organizations.”

Army Team C4ISR provided a list of current job

announcements to job seekers and informed applicants about the different programs available within the organization.

Christopher Newton, CECOM LCMC human resource specialist, engaged each applicant to help identify where their skills may be best matched to compete for current C4ISR job vacancies.

“I learned a lot about the organization [C4ISR and CECOM LCMC],” said Staff Sgt. Pauline Sedano, a supply specialist stationed at the Uniformed Services University of Health Services who spoke with Newton. “This event was very helpful.”

The job fair and other transition services are open to the entire Walter Reed population however, personnel in transition from other areas are also welcome to information and resources that TEAMS has to offer, Walker said.

“We assist Navy, Air Force, Marines and Army personnel,”

Walker said. “If you’re active duty or a Reservist, we’re here for you. If you’re a vet, we’re here for you. If you’re a DA civilian, we’re here for you. If you’re a spouse, we’re here for you.”

Walker said one challenge they face is identifying the skill sets a Soldier has and does not realize, putting them down on paper and transferring those skills into a resume.

“We overcome our challenges by talking to Soldiers to help them identify their skills and showing them on paper that they have relevant experience they, perhaps, didn’t realize,” Walker said.

He said he looks forward to a partnership with Army Team C4ISR and CECOM LCMC in the coming months.

“If you participate, we will provide a venue to get your job information out there to our population,” Walker said.

Full steam ahead: C4ISR ‘Phase One’ construction reported ahead of schedule

Story by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
CECOM LCMC (Forward)

Just a little more than a year ago, Aberdeen Proving Ground marked the beginning of change on the installation at a groundbreaking ceremony for a nearly \$800 million construction project as a major part of implementation of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law.

The multi-million dollar project is well underway and almost 50 percent complete, according to Michael Vetter, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, director (G4), Logistics and Engineering.

The project will house elements of Army Team Command, Control, Com-

munications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, or Army Team C4ISR, slated to relocate to APG. The project represents the ‘Phase One’ portion of the entire Army Team C4ISR construction program.

Eight of the nine ‘Phase One’ buildings have begun construction, according to Vetter.

“At this point, most of the work left on the ‘Phase One’ campus is interior work,” he said. “This includes the installation of utilities, installation of information technology capabilities, walls, carpet, furniture and other essentials.”

Construction is ahead of schedule with ‘Phase One’ buildings scheduled to be available for occupancy August through November of 2010, a full ten

months before the BRAC law implementation deadline of Sept. 15, 2011. The dates of completion are dependent on the contractor’s progress and the time allotted to install furniture, phones and an access control system, and to obtain appropriate certifications for Secure Compartmentalized Information Facilities. All of the significant buildings in the campus, ‘Phase One’ and Two, should be ready by February 15, 2011, according to Vetter.

“Employees can look forward to working at state-of-the-art facilities,” Vetter said. The buildings will accommodate many quality of life and advanced technical capabilities that have been considered in the engineering process, said Vetter. The buildings will be outfitted

with fiber connections for optimal computer network connection speed.

‘Phase One’ buildings will be equipped with two large break rooms on every floor, providing space for a microwave, refrigerator, sink, and a space for employees in each break room to eat lunch, said Vetter. There will also be a concession area in four locations throughout both phases of the Army Team C4ISR campus for employees to grab a bite to eat.

“These new facilities should foster more of a community atmosphere,” Vetter said. He said elements of Army Team C4ISR will be located in closer proximity than they currently exist at Fort Monmouth. “Being optimally located should increase synergy among the team,” he said.

Army ‘On-the-Move’ team takes first in Jersey Shore Relay

Story by
ALLISON BARROW
CERDEC

U.S. Army product manager at Fort Monmouth, N.J., took a break from planning for its annual integrated technology demonstration to support Special Olympics in the 13th Annual Jersey Shore Relay April 18.

The running team for Product Manager Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance On-the-Move, or PM C4ISR OTM, placed first in the Government Team Category with a combined time of 3h: 21m and placing 62nd out of 395 teams.

“The excitement and energy that everyone feels in being a part of this great cause makes it unforgettable,” said David Mullen, systems engineer, PM C4ISR OTM.

The PM, an asset of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, is part of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center headquartered at Fort Monmouth [and is scheduled to move to Aberdeen Proving Ground as part of the Base Realignment and Closure law].

As an Army capital investment, PM C4ISR OTM is an R&D program of record that supports Army, Department of Defense and industry technology development efforts by providing a relevant environment to assess emerging technologies in a C4ISR system-of-systems.

This is the team’s second year participating in the 26.2 mile relay sponsored by the Jersey Shore Running Club. Last year they placed 8th in the government category and 120th overall.

“I heard that the PM was going to run in it again this year, and I remembered how fun the experience was, so I was definitely going to run it again,” Mullen said.

The team members were Product Manager Lt. Col. William T. Utroska and government civilian engineers Mark Griffis, Adam McCauley, David Mullen and Darren Stephens.

Many of them first ran together in 2007 when they decided to participate in
See PM C4ISR OTM, page 7

Six servicemen enshrined during 40th EOD Memorial Ceremony

Story and photos by
ROGER TEEL
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

The lives of six explosive ordnance disposal technicians who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2008 were celebrated at the 40th annual EOD Memorial Ceremony at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., May 2.

Names enshrined on the memorial were Sgt. James K. Healy, Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence D. Ezell, Staff Sgt. Brian E. Studer, U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Strickland, U.S. Navy EOD1 Luis A. Souffront and U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Anthony L. Capra.

All were graduates of the Kauffman EOD Training Complex, the Navy-run Department of Defense School where the EOD Memorial resides. All were killed in the line of duty in 2008.

As the ceremony was about to begin, a solitary bagpiper, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Mark Matice, played an airy medley as he marched to and fro in front of the memorial. The haunting music somberly led nearly 1,500 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, legacy Families, guests and distinguished visitors to their seats. Many stood silent in the rear while 20-man formations from each service framed the memorial.

“These are the times that try men’s souls,” said U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, quoting American patriot Thomas Paine in his keynote remarks.

Mattis, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation and commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command, headquartered in Norfolk, Va., was introduced by U.S. Navy Capt. Adam Guziewicz, commandant of the EOD School.

“There is no better place to honor the men and women who so fully devoted themselves to their country and the EOD profession than this place, across from the school that generates the next generation of EOD technicians,” Guziewicz said during his introductory comments.

“While we formally gather here just once a year to honor the memories of our fallen comrades, the staff and students honor them each day in many ways. Sometimes they’re here carefully polishing the brass on the memorial or sweeping sand from the paving stones engraved with the heartfelt messages of others.

“It is during these quiet, contemplative moments that one gets the feeling that this symbol of our sacrifice somehow stands as a silent sentinel -- watching us, guiding us, and perhaps even passing judgment on those of us charged with training future EOD technicians,” Guziewicz said.

“I’m very humbled to stand here with you today, in this place that we all consider to be hallowed ground,” Mattis said as he stepped to the podium. “I say I’m humbled and you know why. Who could possibly capture in a few words this morning all that these young men meant to us and to our great nation?”

Mattis commanded the 1st Marine Division during the initial attack and subsequent stability operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He previously commanded the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade during Operation Enduring



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, commander, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), kneels as he presents a tri-folded American flag to Christy Ezell, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence D. Ezell, an Army EOD technician killed in Iraq on April 30, 2008.

Freedom in southern Afghanistan.

“I have led many of America’s sons into battle, and I use General Douglas MacArthur’s words here today – ‘They were splendid in every way,’” Mattis said.

“Some people walk through life wearing a raincoat called fear. But not those young men that we commemorate here today,” he continued. “Did they know fear? Of course they did. But they didn’t wear it, and it didn’t shape their lives. Courage was what shaped their lives.

“These young men looked beyond the hot political debates swirling around an unpopular war and heard their country’s call. We celebrate them here today and the example they set for us, even as it humbles each one of us to do so.”

Mattis was reverential as he described the strength of America, recalling the words of President Abraham Lincoln.

“He said ‘America’s strength has always been in following our better angels -- our love of liberty, our passion for peace, our ceaseless harboring of hope, our colossal willingness of the heart.’

“I love those words,” Mattis said, repeating the phrases, ‘...the ceaseless harboring of hope, our colossal willingness of the heart.’

“We send our best out into the world – the best, the brightest and bravest our nation has to offer – the sons and daughters who will forever stand as the better angels of America.”

Mattis praised the Families of the fallen.

“Our nation is thankful for your strength, for you gave these young men their foundation of character – apples don’t fall far from the tree. Your examples formed their outlook on life, on

camp program this summer.”

She said the golf tournaments that make these programs possible are not only great charitable events but also fun for the players and other participants.

“It is such a fun event and has a regular following of golfers and participants, thanks to Mister McKeever’s boundless energy, enthusiasm and leadership,” she said.

Tournament participants can play in teams, and their entry fees include the golf, food and beverages provided, and a variety of door prizes. The grand prize last year was free play for a foursome at the exclusive Hunt Valley Golf Club, an amenity contributed by one of the players in the tournament who works there. Local sponsors help with gift certificates.

There also are “hole sponsors” who pay \$125 to \$150 per hole, depending on whether they have supported the tournament in the past, he added. A particularly challenging hole earns a big prize – a car from a local dealership – if some-

one makes a hole-in-one. The dealership doesn’t furnish the car for free, so McKeever must buy insurance to make sure the prize is covered should someone get either very skillful, or very lucky. No one yet has claimed that prize, but two years ago a player earned two airline tickets for scoring an ace at a different hole.

McKeever said tournament participation averages about 20 to 25 teams each year, for a total of 80 to 100 players. About half of the players work for tenant activities on APG, he added.

“This past year, we played at Ruggles,” McKeever said. “During the previous five years, we played at the Wetlands in Aberdeen, close to Ripken Stadium. We moved it over to Ruggles because they offered a cheaper rate for playing, and I was able to get more money for the tournament. It was the best year we’ve ever had for everything. It was the smoothest-run tournament, and everything went perfectly.”

The tournament appears to run smoothly because of the work McKeever, Schocket and the volunteers put into it well ahead of tournament time.

“It is a huge undertaking,” McKeever admits. “I typically start getting stuff together in January. We have the golf tournament in July, so it takes me six months out of the year to go around and beg, borrow and plead for support. A lot of restaurants give me gift certificates, and I end up giving them out as prizes. Other businesses give me other prizes – T-shirts or whatever they can give. The way I look at it, anything they can give me is more than I have. I give them all out as prizes because it didn’t cost me anything. I also purchase a five dollar handout item that everybody gets, so everybody gets something. About half the people get a prize as well.”

Anyone who is interested in participating in this July’s tournament can contact Joseph McKeever at starbelly-music@aol.com or visit the Starbelly Web site, www.starbelly.tv/golf.



Staff Sgt. Timothy Haar buries his face in wife Meagan’s shoulder after witnessing his former platoon leader, Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Ezell, enshrined during the memorial ceremony.

what has value. For that you should proud--for raising up a rambunctious better angel with whom it has been my honor to serve.

“The cost has been very dear,” Mattis continued. “We are reminded of that here today. But we will teach this enemy a lesson, these maniacs, and the lesson is you cannot scare us by hurting us. This experiment that we call America will survive, thanks to the young men we celebrate here today and others like them.”

After the general’s comments, a roll call of all EOD technicians who made the ultimate sacrifice was read. The roll now has 238 names. The latest additions were unveiled and wreaths were placed before each service’s memorial plaque.

Senior commanders knelt as they presented a tri-folded American flag that had flown over the memorial to the Fam-

ilies of the honored. After standing, each officer rendered a slow salute, the gesture of a grateful nation.

Following a 21-gun salute, Senior Airman Biquiana Rivas of the Eglin Air Force Base honor guard, played Taps, concluding the ceremony.

Many guests lingered long afterward, talking to friends, touching the wall, remembering the fallen EOD warriors.

After taking photos of the names on the Army memorial, Staff Sgt. Timothy Haar, an EOD technician from Fort Carson, Colo. was overcome by grief. He buried his face in his wife Meagan’s shoulder.

“Sergeant Ezell was my platoon sergeant in the 62nd [Ordnance Company in Iraq],” he softly said as tears rolled down his cheeks. “It could have been my name up there.”

Benefit

From page 5

a really great organization for making them feel a lot better about their lives, and giving them something to look forward to.”

According to Torri Dietrich, a spokesperson for the ARC NCR, last year’s proceeds from the tournament were applied to the agency’s recreation support services to help people with disabilities “participate in inclusive recreational activities of their choice.”

“Some of the activities include unified basketball, softball, soccer, bocce and kayaking, where people with and without disabilities enjoy participating in athletic endeavors together,” Dietrich said. “We also sponsored an open-air painting program in partnership with the Harford County Arts Commission and plan to launch an inclusive summer

PM C4ISR OTM

From page 6

a 10K while on travel duty at Fort Benning, Ga. In 2008, they officially trained as a team and ran the Long Branch Half Marathon, said McCauley.

“Some of us train together during the year by going for runs during lunch or after work. We’ll usually go for either a four- or six-mile run maybe two to three times per week,” said Adam McCauley, PM C4ISR OTM. “Lieutenant Col.

Utroska keeps up a rigorous daily PT in order to stay in running shape.”

The dedication and training helped as they improved their time this year by 13 minutes and raised almost \$250 for the cause. The relay has personal meaning to McCauley who was a volunteer for the Special Olympics back in college.

“It really is a great thing,” said McCauley. “It’s the greatest day of my life!”

C4ISR OTM E09, the largest integrated technology demonstration of its kind, is scheduled to begin June 1 at Fort Dix, N.J., and culminate with its Presentation Days, Sept. 15 through 17.



Go to
<http://ice.disa.mil>.
Click on
“ARMY” then
“Aberdeen Proving
Ground.”



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Occoquan Spring Festival

Visit the annual Historic Occoquan Spring Arts and Crafts Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 7, located on 200 Mill Street, Occoquan, Va., in northern Virginia. Cost is \$39 per person and includes roundtrip bus transportation. Join in the tradition of the Arts and Crafts Show featuring more than 350 juried artists and craft vendors, food and live entertainment.

Build a Better Budget Workshop

Army Community Service will hold a Build a Better Budget Workshop, 6 to 7:30 p.m., June 24, at ACS building 2754. The workshop is free.

For more information or to RSVP by June 22, call Arcelio V. Alleyne, 410-306-2450.

Amateur Boxing Night June 20

Better than the ‘Thrilla in Manila.’ See the 16th Ordnance Battalion and the 143rd Ordnance Battalion hit the ring June 20 at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, building 3330. Doors open 6 p.m., the event begins at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military; \$10 for nonmilitary; and \$20 for ringside seats. Children under 6 are admitted free.

This event is open to the public. Purchase tickets at FMWR Registration, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Stark Recreation Center, building E4140, 410-436-2713.

Job vs. Career classes for teens

Army Community Service will hold Job vs. Career Classes for teens ages 13 through 18, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., June 24 and July 29, at ACS, building 2754. Today’s workforce offers many challenges and rewards. Learning has a tremendous impact on future earnings. Teens will learn the benefit of a career

over a job. The class will help guide teens through the job and career preparation process so they can achieve their own employment success.

- Topics include:
- What employers are looking for
 - How to apply for a job
 - Tips on resume writing, interviewing experience

For more information or to enroll in this free class, call Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness specialist, 410-278-9669.

CYSS Youth Soccer registration

Youths ages 4 through 14 can register for boys and girls soccer teams. Walk-in registration will be held 7:30 to 10 a.m., June 1 through 29; appointments are needed for registration 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; call Aberdeen Area Central Registration, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479, or call John Lee, 410-436-7131, Edgewood Area Youth Center, building E-1902. Age groups include 4 to 5; 6 to 7; 8 to 9; 10 to 11; and 13 to 14 (age as of July 31, 2009). Games will be held Saturdays and practices held weeknights. Practices begin the week of July 27.

For more information, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297.

Hearts Apart Support Group meets June 3

Hearts Apart Support Group is one way to stay connected in the community and learn what Army Community Service has to offer the Family. Family members from all branches of service, DoD civilians and contractors may participate in Hearts Apart Support Group meetings held in the APG Army Community Service building 2754, Rodman Road 6 to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2).

For the month of June, Marilyn Howard, ACS Family Member Employment program manager, will speak on the topic of “Employment Opportunities at APG” and “How to Conduct an Effective Job Search.” There will also be a demonstration on how to search employment Web sites, how to look-up contracting positions located on APG and the “buzz” words for resume writing. The briefing and training will be held in the ACS Job Information Center.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Phyllis Ethridge, ACS Relocation Readiness Program specialist, 410-278-2464/7572.

ACS provides Operation R.E.A.D.Y. Training for Families

The Army Community Service Mobilization/Deployment Program provides Operation R.E.A.D.Y. training specifically to provide support, guidance, assistance and training in all aspects of Family support issues and services.

Classes will be held 6 to 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

- June 16, Trauma in the Unit
- July 21, Financial Planning for Deployment
- Spouse Battlemind Training

For more information, call the Mobilization/Deployment Office, 410-278-2453/7572.

Walt Disney World Salutes the Military

Walt Disney World is offering active duty military and retirees a free complimentary five-day park hopper and water park ticket and up to five five-day companion tickets for just \$99 each, or an upgrade to a hopper for \$124 each.

Tickets cost \$25 extra for each add-

on/upgrade applied. Tickets must be purchased three weeks in advance. Tickets are not valid until activated at the theme park ticket window. Valid military ID is required at time of purchase and activation. All sales are final. No refunds, exchanges or upgrades after purchase.

Ticket prices expire Dec. 23.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907 or visit the AA Recreation Center, building 3326.

FMWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City

Roll the bones on daily trips to Atlantic City, N.J. FMWR Leisure Travel Services offers daily bus service to Trump Taj Mahal Casino. Cost of the trip is \$45 per person with \$25 back in cash and a \$5 buffet coupon.

Only for ages 21 and over. The bus will leave Vitali’s Restaurant, Best Western in Edgewood 9 a.m. and return 9 p.m.

For more information, contact FMWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail apgr-usag-mwr-lesuretravel@conus.army.mil.

Orioles game specials

Purchase tickets for Orioles baseball. All game seats are located in Section 40 behind home plate. Tickets cost \$48 each; limited quantities available.

- Toronto Blue Jays, 7:05 p.m., July 10
- Texas Rangers, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 4
- Tampa Bay Rays, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 14
- Toronto Blue Jays, 7:05 p.m., Oct. 2

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil.

SAT preparation classes offered

Child, Youth and School Services will hold Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation classes, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., July 20 through 24, at CYSS Administrative Offices, building 2752 Rodman Road for students in grades 9 through 12.

Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members.

Students can be a step ahead for the SAT. Classes will assist students in sharpening the verbal skills needed for being successful when taking the SAT. The class also prepares students for the SAT math exam, covering basic math skills including algebra and geometry. Problem solving, reasoning and test-taking techniques will also be covered.

Classes cost \$175 per student and includes textbook.

To register or to make an appointment, call the Central Registration Office, 410-278-7571/7479, building 2752.

Driver’s Ed

Driver’s Ed classes will be held Monday thru Thursday, 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. or 6 to 9:15 p.m. Classes will be held June 1 thru 16. Cost is \$315 per student.

Classes will be held June 22 thru July 7; July 13 thru 28; and Aug. 3 thru 18 (there is no class on federal holidays), Monday thru Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.; 2:30 to 5:45 p.m.; or 6 to 9:15 p.m.

All Drivers Education classes are conducted by Rules Driving School, Inc. Classes will be held in Aberdeen at the Community Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Boulevard, room 304.

Classes include 30 hours classroom instruction and 6 hours behind the wheel instruction.

The last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18 years old. Parents must attend the first day of class. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Ice skating lessons

SKIES Unlimited offers comprehensive group lesson program ice skating lessons for ages 4 through 18. Classes will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays,

July 2 through Aug. 11 at Ice World in Abingdon.

Ice World’s philosophy is to provide top notch, professional instruction for beginner through advanced skaters in a relaxed and fun environment. Learn to Skate is based on the fundamentals of the United States Figure Skating Association and is necessary for those wishing to proceed on to ice hockey or freestyle.

Each session includes six weeks of professional instruction; each session is 30 minutes long with 30-minute practice and weekly free skate rentals. Class sizes are limited and are grouped by age and ability. Three free passes to public sessions are included.

Ice skating classes cost \$110 per student. There will be no make-up classes or refunds.

Free babysitting course

Become a certified babysitter after taking the free 4-H/Army Child and Youth Services babysitting class for ages 13 to 18.

The class will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 16 at the AA Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522. The objectives are to familiarize participants with the responsibilities of babysitting.

Class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information, to register or for an appointment, call the Central Registration Office, 410-278-7571/7479.

Infant/Child First Aid, CPR Class

An Infant/Child First Aid and CPR class will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 13 and older, June 18, building 2752, Child and Youth Services administration building. The class costs \$5 per person.

Toddler Art

Calling all young Picassos. Toddler

Art lessons will be given 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays, June 24 through July 29, for ages 2 through 4 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Hands-on creativity is the theme as children explore paint, clay, color, texture and shapes. Dress little ones in old clothes or smock and be prepared for a messy good time. Parent participation required.

Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks.

Drawing, sketching

Drawing and sketching classes will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Thursdays, June 22 through July 30, for ages 10 to 15 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Students will explore the concepts of value, proportion, perspective, composition, and foreshortening in this drawing class. Class topics include materials used in drawing and sketching, memory drawing, contour drawing, grid drawing, tonal drawing and matting of completed works.

Students are required to have an 11- x 14-inch drawing pad.

Class costs \$120 per student for eight weeks.

Introduction to water colors

SKIES Unlimited offers an Introduction to Water Colors, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays, June 24 through July 29, for ages 8 through 13 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks.

Students will learn watercolor techniques. Instruction will focus on brush handling and controlling water volume on the brush and paper.

Students are required to have a 11- x 14-inch drawing pad.

Aberdeen & Edgewood Area swimming pools

Information on pool hours, swimming lessons, pool parties, pool passes and more

Aberdeen Area

Olympic Swimming Pool, building 3325

Open weekends only thru June 7, plus Aug. 29 and 30, Sept. 5 thru 7.

- Daily operation: June 13 thru Aug. 23
- Labor Day weekend: Sept. 5 thru 7
- Closes Monday, Sept. 7
- Child Youth and School Service Day Camp 9 to 11 a.m., June 15 thru Aug. 21

- Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Lap swim lane available during standard hours

Weekend operation schedule: Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shore Swimming Pool, building 2031

Opens June 20; open weekends only, noon to 5 p.m., June 20 thru Aug. 16. Also available for swimming lessons, pool parties (by reservation) and drown-proofing (must be coordinated with pool manager via e-mail two weeks prior to date needed).

Edgewood Area

Bayside Swimming Pool, building E-4655

Open weekends only thru June 23, plus Aug. 29 and 30, Sept. 5 thru 7.

- Daily operation: June 13 thru Aug. 23
- Labor Day Weekend: Sept. 5 thru 7

- Closes Monday, Sept. 7
- CYSS Day Camp 9 to 11 a.m., June 15 thru Aug. 21

- Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Daily operation schedule
- Lap swim lane available during standard hours

Weekend operation schedule: Open Swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Pool pass fees

Daily passes

Daily.....	\$5
Under 5	Free
Guest of eligible patron	\$9
5 and under (guest).....	\$2
Active duty E1 – E4.....	\$2
Lap swim.....	\$2

30-day pass

Individual:

E1 – E4.....	\$15
All others.....	\$35

Family:

E1 – E4.....	\$40
All others.....	\$70

Season passes

Individual:

E1 – E4	\$40
All others.....	\$85

Family:

E1 – E4.....	\$80
All others.....	\$175

May bowling specials

- In May, bowl one game and get the second game free from 1 to 5 p.m. Shoe rental is not included.
- Today bowling costs \$12 for one hour after 5 p.m.
- Cosmic bowling, pizza and soda special on May 30 includes one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza and a pitcher of soda for \$32.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

Week of May 25

Special #1: Turkey and cheese wrap with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

Special #2: Grilled ham and cheese with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.45.

Week of June 1

Special #1: Grand daddy sub with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$7.95.

Special #2: Italian sausage with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.



APG community showcases talent



Staff Sgt. Eddy Nubine, a gospel jazz musician with the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, wins first place at APG's Got Talent Showcase May 9 performing "God Bless the USA" on his saxophone.

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted "APG's Got Talent Showcase" by having two separate shows, a youth and an adult show, at the Post Theater May 9.

Youth talent show

Aberdeen Proving Ground youth showcased their talent prior to the adult show.

There were three age categories: 10 to 12, 13 to 15 and 16 to 18 years old. First place received \$150, second place received \$100, and third place won \$50.

10 to 12 year old category

Sam McPeak, 11, won first place for singing "You Raised Me Up" by Josh Groban.

McPeak, who won last year in the youth portion of the talent show, and received first place for Outstanding Male Vocal Soloist in the Youth Talent Competition for the 2008 Festival of the Arts, said that it feels good to win again.

"I am a little surprised to win again," McPeak said. "I picked the song because I felt that it was good for my range."

Ashley Hunter, 12, won second place for singing "You Raised Me Up." Kyrie Johnston, 10, won third place by singing and playing "Silver Bells" on a keyboard.

Other participants in this category included Brianna Nubine, who recited

a speech "For My People" by Margaret Walker and Elijah Nubine and Nathaniel Johnston who both played a song on a keyboard.

13 to 15 year old category

Sam Razo, 15, who sang "At this Moment" received first place in the 13 to 15 category.

"It feels really good to win. I was really nervous backstage. It is the first time I have won first place," Razo said. "I picked it because it is my mom's favorite song."

Joey Villalobos, 14, won second place for playing an original song on his guitar, "Inspiration Song," using pieces of "Joy to the World" and John Lennon's protest songs.

Villalobos, who had a large cheering section present at the show, said, "It is wonderful to have people who care."

Karinna Johnston, 13, who played "Parisian Waltz" on a keyboard won third place.

Eddy Nubine Jr., 13, who recited "I Have a Dream" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Nicholas Johnston, 15, who played the Star Wars theme on a keyboard also participated in this category.

16 to 18 year old category

Kuwane Parker, 16, played "I'm Still Here," a Christian song, on the keyboard. Parker, who is also a Youth Choir director at his church, said that inspirational songs and his faith in God help him get through difficult times in his life.

"I feel better when I sing that song," he said. "I know everything is going to be alright."

Dewaine White, 16, who won second place, sang "Flying Without Wings," by Ruben Studdard, an American Idol winner.

White, who is in the Baltimore School of Arts, said that he considers the song a good luck song, as he sang the song for his audition for his school.

White said that he looks up to Studdard because he overcame challenges during the American Idol competition.

Stephen Bittner, who sang and played keyboard, performed "Home," and won third place.

Pricilla Bittner, who performed a song on her fiddle, won the People's Choice Award, (\$50) which was based solely on audience applause. FMWR introduced this new award at this venue. This prize was awarded based on the audience applause at the end of the show for each contestant.

"It feels really good to win the award, to know that other people enjoy hearing my music," she said.

The judges for the competition were Shayna Bucharelli, who works for the FMWR ticket office, Diana Cicctelli, a Baltimore County Chapel Hill Elementary music teacher, and Staff Sgt. Antonio Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade. Lewis has performed and won various talent shows, and writes his own music.

Contestants were judged in the following categories: talent, stage presence and audience response.

Earlene Allen, a special events planner for FMWR, said that she felt that it was important for children to have a place to perform and express themselves.

"Their parents enjoy seeing them perform," she said. "Performing builds their confidence."

Adult talent show

A gospel jazz musician with the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band took top prize at the APG's Got Talent Showcase. Staff Sgt. Eddy Nubine, who won \$300, played "God Bless the U.S.A." on his saxophone.

"It is a great surprise. There were many talented performers," he said about his win. "I picked the song because I felt it expressed my sentiments towards Soldiers. I dedicated the song to Soldiers past and present."

Second place went to Lewis, who won \$200 for performing "Danger Zone," a hip hop song that he wrote.

"I write my own songs about my life," he said. "I wanted to send the message that hip hop is still here. My songs are not all about money and flashy cars; they are about the love of hip hop."

Lewis added that it helps him to have a creative outlet like writing and performing songs.

"I think that it is great that two NCOs [noncommissioned officers] won awards during the Year of the NCO," he added. "I want Soldiers to know that their love of music and performing doesn't have to end when they join the military."

Courtney Brewer took third place and \$100 for "Flat on the Floor" by Carrie Underwood, who is one of her favorite singers. Brewer is a student at Harford

Community College studying mass communications. Brewer's mother, Diana Brewer, works for the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

Brewer said that she enjoys every chance she can to perform.

"It is exciting to perform on stage, to get the crowd pumped up," she said.

The People's Choice Award was given to Ashley Ramirez, an APG mailroom contractor, who sang Pink's "Get this Party Started."

"I am glad that I won the People's Choice Award," she said. "I'd rather have the People's Choice Award any day of the week."

Ramirez said that she chose the song because it was a high-energy song that she felt would appeal to the audience. She said that she enjoyed seeing the audience stand up during her performance.

"I thought it was a popular song that would entertain people and get them moving, where everyone can participate," she said.

Other performances included songs in a variety of genres, including a couple of original pieces and one recitation of a poem.

Other contestants included Pvt. Lisa Snow, Jessica Vinson, Pfc. Candice Sparks, Jacqueline Bittner and Patricia Nubine. All participants received the Commanders Certificate of Participation.

The show also included a guest performance by Denim N' Lace, a country music group, composed of three girls, Brewer, Shannon Gwiazdowski and Kara Gwiazdowski.

Other participants included Pricilla Bittner, who sang the national anthem.

The judges were Shalonda Coleman, a former University of Maryland Baltimore music student who has performed in many venues, Cicctelli, and Charles Heinsohn, who works for the APG Community Recreation Division.

The event provides talent for the U.S. Army Soldier Show to which the winner receives an automatic recommendation.

Darryl Allara, an Army Entertainment Consultant, and Joe Leavell, the director of the Army Festival of the Performing Arts, were also present at the show. Allara and Leavell judged not only the talent at the show, but also how the show was executed. The talent show will compete against talent shows on other U.S. military bases worldwide.

"I thought that it was an exciting show with quality acts," Allara said. "There are two contestants who we recommended apply for the Army Soldier Show."

Contestants are taped during the show and are placed in competition with other contestants on U.S. military bases worldwide.

Allen, said that although it was a small show, all of the contestants displayed talent.

"These shows are a good opportunity for the APG community to show off their talent," she added.

Other support

Dan Stagers, who is a financial Services Professional for the Thompson Financial Group, was the master of ceremonies for both events. Sound was provided by Northeast Sound productions and lighting was provided by Starlite Productions. The Directorate of Information Management provided videography.



Staff Sgt. Antonio Lewis
Second place



Courtney Brewer
Third place



Ashley Ramirez
People's Choice (Adult) Award



Sam McPeak
First place in the 10-12 category



Sam Razo
First place in the 13-15 category



Kuwane Parker
First place in the 16-18 category



Pricilla Bittner
People's Choice (Youth) Award



Veterans’ Voices

DoD/VA pilot program helps streamline disability evaluation process for wounded service members

U.S. DoD Military Health System

The Department of Defense is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand a pilot program that simplifies the current disability evaluation process for wounded, injured and ill service members.

The Disability Evaluation System pilot program is aimed at helping wounded service members obtain faster access to TRICARE and other healthcare and VA benefits by developing a single medical examination used by both DoD and VA, with a single source disability evaluation done by VA and accepted by DoD.

The pilot, implemented in November 2007 in the National Capitol Region, is slated to expand to 19 additional installations through June 1, 2009.

Currently, a wounded warrior’s branch of service evaluates the member for conditions that may make him or her unfit for duty. This evaluation initiates the medical examination board process. Following separation or retirement from service, the member is again evaluated by the VA for disability and compensation.

The pilot process streamlines and makes more transparent both processes through concurrent rather than sequential processing, more information for the member during the process, and comprehensive information regarding entitlements from both agencies at the time of the separation.

Under the pilot, only one evaluation is necessary after a member is referred for a ser-

vice medical evaluation board. The single evaluation also helps service members get comprehensive information about their benefits, including TRICARE.

The pilot is a result of the President’s Commission on Care for America’s Returning Wounded Warriors. The goal is to simplify healthcare and treatment for injured service members and veterans and deliver benefits as quickly as possible.

The pilot was initially tested at three Military Treatment Facilities in the National Capitol Region – Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Since the pilot program

began, the VA indicates more than 700 service members have participated in the pilot.

To collect and evaluate data from other geographic regions, 19 more installations have been added to the study, including Fort Carson, Colo., Naval Medical Center San Diego, Calif.,

and Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

For more information about how TRICARE works for medically retired service members, visit <http://www.tricare.mil>.

For more information about VA benefits, visit <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA>.

Job fair for military veterans only

A job fair for military veterans only will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 24, at the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center, building 314 (gym) at Perry Point. Job seekers will meet local employers, community service organizations, defense contractors and government agencies. The job fair is open to all active duty, retired, former service, Reserve/National Guard service members and their spouses. Free parking is available. Business attire is recommended. Bring plenty of resumes. A list of attending employers will be available after June 15.

For more information or for directions, visit <http://marylandvetinfo.blogspot.com/>.

Letter to the Editor: No cost to determine VA health care eligibility

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the largest, most technologically advanced health care system in the U.S. All veterans who served our country in an honorable fashion owe it to themselves to check their eligibility for VA health care.

For veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income, the VA offers an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

VA recognizes that many veterans will feel the effects of the downturn in the economy. Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans are aware of the options VA has available to help them afford the health care they have earned.

Veterans whose previous income was

ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year’s income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback. Veterans determined eligible for VA health care due to hardship can avoid copayments that are applied to veterans in higher income thresholds.

Additionally, veterans who are already receiving care from the VA may be eligible to avoid future copayments if their current year income is substantially reduced.

Enrolled veterans who have experienced a loss of employment, a sudden decrease in their income or an increase in out-of-pocket health care expenses for themselves or a Family member can

apply for a medical care hardship from the VA to help eliminate health care debt and future copayments.

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. Returning veterans are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year “clock” begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

There is no cost to a veteran to determine eligibility. For information about VA health care eligibility, how to enroll for care, or how to apply for a medical care hardship to avoid future copayments for VA health care, interested veterans are urged to call the Enrollment Center for the VA Maryland Health Care System, Monday through Friday,

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-463-6295, ext. 7324. Veterans may also visit the VA health eligibility Web site, www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

The VA Maryland Health Care System operates three inpatient facilities and five community based outpatient clinics throughout the state to serve the needs of Maryland’s veterans.

For additional information about VA health care in Maryland or the locations of VA medical centers or outpatient clinics, veterans can visit the VA Maryland Health Care System web site, www.maryland.va.gov.

Dennis H. Smith

Director
VA Maryland Health Care System

VA welcomes veterans home with new Web site, blog

American Forces Press Service

The Veterans Affairs Department has launched its new “Returning Veterans” Web site to welcome home veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, veteran-centric site that focuses on their needs and questions, VA officials announced April 20.

“VA is entering the world of Web 2.0, because that’s where this generation of veterans is already communicating,” said Dr. Gerald M. Cross, VA’s principal deputy undersecretary for Health. “We’re opening our doors to them virtually to let them know what they can expect when they step through our doors in reality.”

The Web site will feature videos, veterans’ stories and a blog where veterans

are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore, officials said.

“We hope our returning veterans find this site easy and helpful, but also engaging,” Cross said. “As the site grows, we will be linking to veterans’ blogs and highlighting more of their own stories from their own views. We are their VA, so we are eager to provide a forum for veterans to discuss their lives.”

(Editor’s note: Taken from a VA press release.)

South Dakota offering veterans bonus

SD VA

South Dakota is paying a bonus to members of the Armed Forces who were legal residents of the state for no less than six months immediately preceding their period of active duty and who served on active duty during one or more of the following periods.

Aug. 2, 1990 to March 3, 1991 – All active service counts for payment.

March 4, 1991 to Dec. 31, 1992 – Only service in a hostile area qualifying for the Southwest Asia Service Medal counts for payment.

Jan. 1, 1993 to Sept. 10, 2001 – Only service in a hostile area qualifying for any United States campaign or service medal awarded for combat operations against hostile forces counts for payment.

Sept. 11, 2001 to a date to be determined – All active service counts for payment.

Veterans with qualifying service before Dec. 31, 1992 [Desert Storm], and after Jan. 1, 1993 [Operation Iraqi Freedom], may receive two separate bonuses of up to \$500 each.

Applicants living outside of South Dakota may obtain an application by e-mailing john.fette@state.sd.us, requesting an application and instructions by writing at SD Veterans Bonus, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 or by calling 605-773-7251. Include service member’s branch of the military and dates of service.

Applicants living in South Dakota may apply through the nearest County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer.

Program aimed at growing leaders across APG

*Story by
DON KENNEDY
ECBC*

Thirty one GS-15s from across Aberdeen Proving Ground including the 67 tenant organizations that operate here began a year-long journey March 24 through 26. An innovative new leadership development program called Leadership Cohort kicked off during a session at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility that will put the concept of “action learning” into practice.

“The concept,” explained Joe Wienand, the director of Program Integration at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, “involves learning by doing. It revolves around the idea that the best way to understand leadership concepts is to practice them. Cohort students will work on installation-wide projects over the course of the next year that will give them opportunities to practice leadership skills and concepts.”

But, they won’t do it alone. The Office of Personnel Management, which designed the training program for the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command, enlisted an academic crew of professional coaches from universities and institutions across the country to coach the students through the year-long endeavor.

“These are the people who coach the captains of industry at major corporations,” Wienand said. “They will serve as

a support system for the students. Along with ‘Executive Champions,’ ten local members of the Senior Executive Service who have agreed to help guide the students throughout the year, there is a very strong support system built into this program.”

That is a vital element, according to Gary Martin, deputy commander of RDECOM.

“As far as I’m concerned,” he told the group March 26 while on a panel of SESs addressing the Cohort students, “we are all where we are because someone along the way took an interest in our careers. We are here as SESs today to make that same commitment to you.

“You will help senior leaders solve the issues that face us today,” he continued. “When all of the BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure] dust settles, we will need to draw people in to fill critical jobs here in Harford County. We need to look at the issues that come along with that, such as the conversion of the infrastructure to meet the demands of an expanding workforce. It is by design that you all come from a wide variety of organizations across the installation because these are installation-wide issues that we will be dealing with.”

And from those issues will come opportunities for leaders to grow – looking beyond their traditional roles within their organizations to working across each of the 67 tenant organizations that make up APG to tackle larger issues.

“Each of the Cohort students will have an individual project during the year that is part of their normal work,” explained Wienand, “but each will also have a project they work on with a group of their peers in the program. Over the course of the program, they will have to reach out to one another outside the scheduled sessions to coordinate their efforts at solving larger challenges.”

In all, the group will have eight scheduled meetings during the year where it gets

together for progress reviews of projects.

In addition to immersing themselves in senior level, installation-wide projects and sharpening their leadership skills, Martin asks one thing of the students.

“Just as each of us has had someone who has helped us in our careers, you now have people who are taking an interest in yours. I ask that you pass that on – to start mentoring people so we can continue to grow leaders into the future,” Martin said.



Health Notes

New Web page guides TRICARE beneficiaries to behavioral health resources

U.S. DoD Military Health System

A new Web page for TRICARE beneficiaries takes the brainwork out of seeking help.

May is Mental Health Month, and at www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth, TRICARE is committed to providing beneficiaries with the most up-to-date information about available its behavioral health resources.

The Web page supports two Department of Defense initiatives: promoting awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder treatment and assisting returning service members by providing

expanded counseling services. It also provides information for Family members dealing with deployment stress, moves and separation situations.

When beneficiaries are looking for help, www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth is the starting place to find information about common concerns, resources and how TRICARE’s behavioral health benefits work.

Service members and Family members can access behavioral health information including recent news articles, self-assessment programs and behavioral health flyers and brochures.

APG Armed Forces Day one to remember

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
and
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

A dazzling array of military pageantry, featuring Army uniforms, equipment and technology, greeted visitors to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Armed Forces Day celebration May 16. The APG celebration was the first - and one of the largest - that was opened to the public since the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector G. Marin hosted the event and welcomed visitors and special guests during the opening ceremonies held on Fanshaw Field.

"We want to open our gates and our arms to everyone in the community," Izzo said prior to the ceremony. "And when we invite them in we want to make sure they understand that we really care and are thinking about them."

Thirteen Gold Star Families attended a private breakfast prior to the opening ceremony hosted by Izzo, Marin, and Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez.

In regard to the 13 Maryland Gold Star Families, Izzo, who recently returned from Afghanistan, said the post would take pains to expand on the relationship it has established with the Families to include sending them periodic updates.

"It's important that we keep in touch," he said. "We must never forget our Soldiers out there in harm's way in caves and alleys, serving our country for our freedom. We need to remember and reflect."

Along with local and state politicians and public servants, special guests to the opening ceremonies included patients from the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Perry Point.

Narrator Janet Dettwiler, APG adjutant, welcomed all to the program on behalf of Izzo.

"Our theme today is to recognize and honor the men and women who serve in uniform and their Families," she said.

The sounds of the traditional "Ruffles and Flourishes" played by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick Ellwein opened the ceremony followed by the boom of Howitzers as the 61st Ordnance Brigade salute battery led by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Smith of the 16th Ordnance Battalion fired a 13-gun salute.

All stood as the band then played the national anthem and APG Garrison Chaplain (Col.) Ruben Colon, offered the invocation, giving thanks for the occasion and asking for continued inspiration.

"Inspire us all to serve with courage, loyalty and faith," Colon prayed. "May this occasion serve to rededicate our lives to serving this nation and you."

Dettwiler directed attention to the field where the Soldiers, Marines and Airmen of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School and its combined color guard stood in formation along with a display of Army aircraft, vehicles and equipment.

In his remarks, Izzo said the combined attendance of service members and civilians gathered to honor the nation's armed forces represented a nation that remains a symbol of freedom to nations around the world and he encouraged listeners to "find a way to say thank you to our young men and women" serving the nation.

"Remember the heavy load our service men and women carry," he said. "They carry it for us all. Don't let the burden they carry become invisible."

Izzo then unveiled the Gold Star Families oak tree assisted by Sgt. Elizabeth Thompson, APG Noncommissioned Officer of the Year from the 1st



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, center, poses with signers and observers after a re-signing of the Army Family Covenant during Armed Forces Day opening ceremonies at Fanshaw Field May 16. From left RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, APG Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Sgt. Elizabeth Thompson; APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez; Izzo; APG Soldier of the Year Sgt. Benjamin Salazar; Purple Heart recipient Sgt. Eric Scheier, holding his son Connor, 2; Leslie Scheier holding 3-week old daughter Ava, and Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

Area Medical Laboratory and newly-promoted Sgt. Benjamin Salazar, APG Soldier of the Year from Company B, 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort).

A re-signing of the Army Family Covenant followed with Izzo, Weissman, Marin and Rodriguez signing the documents as observers, representing all the Soldiers and Families on APG looked on. The observers were Thompson, Salazar, and Sgt. Eric Scheier, a recent Purple Heart recipient from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, and his wife Leslie, 2-year-old son Connor and 3-week old daughter Ava.

"The covenant says that the strength and support that comes from a Soldier's Family is what makes our Soldiers successful," Dettwiler explained. "It pledges that our senior commanders will steadfastly, throughout the years, continue to provide for the support of those Families."

The two covenant documents will be displayed in the Garrison Headquarters in the Aberdeen Area and at RDECOM headquarters in the Edgewood Area, she added.

Musical closure to the ceremony was provided by the Chapel Hill Sensations, a group of more than 30 fifth-graders from Chapel Hill Elementary School in Perry Hall, led by vocal music teacher Di Cicco-telli, who sang the song "Americans We," which was warmly received by the audience.

The group, which won last year's Manic Monday Group of the Year Award on the Channel 13 WJZ Morning News show, was proud to be a part of the APG celebration, Cicco-telli said.

"It was very exciting for our children to have this as a memory," she said. "We were very honored to participate in Aberdeen Proving Ground's Armed Forces Day."

In celebration of the Year of the NCO, the Soldiers of the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course presented a Pageant of Uniforms, modeling clothing and gear worn by U.S. Army Soldiers during America's conflicts - from the Colonial Era to today's 21st century Soldier. As each model entered the field the AMC Band played period music as the narrator detailed the conventional mood of each era. The Soldiers received enthusiastic applause and a standing ovation at the pageant's conclusion.

A thrilling ending to the opening ceremonies was the playing of the Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force songs by the AMC Band and the retiring of colors by the color guard.

Military vehicles

After the opening ceremonies, visitors and guests toured the military equipment, aircraft and vehicles on display on Fanshaw Field and technology exhibits by APG tenant organizations on the adjacent field,



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Greeters from the U.S. Air Force Detachment frame the entrance to Fanshaw Field as Kim Ables, RDECOM protocol officer, right, welcomes Wagner Ross, a Korean War veteran, left, and other veterans from the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Perry Point to the Armed Forces Day opening ceremonies.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS

Children have fun exploring the buffalo surrogate mine clearing vehicle on display at Fanshaw Field. The vehicle is one of more than 30 developed by the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center for training U.S. Army Corps of Engineers route clearance teams scheduled for imminent deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Remembering the fallen

Gold Star Families honored at the Armed Forces Day celebration included Family members or representatives of the following fallen:

- Spc. Bernard L. Ceo, 23, Maryland National Guard, Baltimore, Md., Oct. 14, 2005
- Sgt. Kendall K. Frederick, 21, Randallstown, Md., USA, Oct. 19, 2005
- Lance Cpl. Norman "Wally" Anderson III, 21, USMC, Parkton, Md., Oct. 19, 2005
- 1st Lt. Robert A. Seidel III, 23, Emmitsburg, Md., USA, May 18, 2006
- Lance Cpl. James W. Higgins, 22, Frederick, Md., USMC, July 27, 2006
- Petty Officer 2nd Class David S. Roddy, 32, USN, Aberdeen, Md., Sept. 16, 2006
- Cpl. Eric T. Campbell, 22, Salisbury, Md., USA, Jan. 7, 2007
- Staff Sgt. Jay E. Martin, 29, Baltimore, Md., USA, April 29, 2007
- Sgt. Casey W. Nash, 22, Baltimore, Md., USA, May 18, 2007
- Sgt. 1st Class Collin J. Bowen, 38, Perry Hall, Md., MDNG, March 14, 2008
- Lt. Col. James J. Walton, 41, Rockville, Md., USA, June 21, 2008
- Sgt. Ryan P. Baumann, 24, Great Mills, Md., USA, Aug. 1, 2008
- Capt. Jesse Melton III, 29, Randallstown, Md., USA, Sept. 9, 2008
- Pvt. Charles Yi Barnett, 19, Bel Air, Md., USA, Nov. 20, 2008

Army Team C4ISR exhibits technologies to APG community on Armed Forces Day



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS
Mechanical engineer J.J. Kowal, left, watches Corinne Brown, 10, operate a remote powered race track at the Army Power Division Display belonging to the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Story by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
CECOM LCMC (Forward)

Armed Forces day provided a venue for the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command and Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance to introduce its technologies and workforce, as the organization is

slated to relocate in the coming months as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law implementation. More than 300 C4ISR employees have already moved, and are expected this summer. Among the social activities for the community to enjoy on Armed Forces Day, CECOM and Army Team C4ISR exhibited technologies relevant to today’s Warfighter.

The CECOM LCMC Software Engineering Center’s Army Reprogramming Analysis Team-Program Office displayed an unclassified simulated version of the ARAT Warfighter Survivability Software Support Portal. The portal is used by military personnel, government civilians and support engineers who are in charge of reprogramming the force protection systems in Army aviation and ground vehicles during tactical operations in the field, said Nelson Capan, ARAT-PO project engineer. The software is used to keep force protections systems up to date and optimized to account for the latest threats unique to that region. In application, as a Soldier travels, the types of threats encountered may differ in type and frequency encountered. The CECOM LCMC SEC Avionics Branch demonstrated the Advanced Multiplex Test System which is software used to diagnose electronics onboard weapons systems in the field environment. Presently fielded, this equipment saves time in its ability to troubleshoot an error in the field, identify what the problem is and where it occurs. If the mechanic in the field is unable to resolve an issue, he or she will soon be able to access the SEC’s Aviation Responsive Maintenance System, also developed by the SEC Avionics Branch. The ARMS empowers field maintainers to fix their aircraft while still out in the field, after efforts to troubleshoot have been exhausted. “The ARMS is a collaborative network that supports Army aircraft maintenance and repair personnel, so they can solve technical problems in the field twenty four/seven,” said Frank Claycomb, a software developer for CECOM LCMC SEC. The software is not fielded yet however,

it is expected to increase technical rates, reduce resource requirements and costs, improve maintenance processes and contribute to mission readiness. CECOM exhibited its new mine detector system. This equipment is unique in that it detects what is and is not a land mine, said Jaclyn Fanelli, CECOM Logistics Readiness Center, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors Directorate. The older system was only able to detect metal. The new system has been fielded for approximately five years, Fanelli said. Training Target and the Sweep Monitoring System are used to train Soldiers on the mine detector. Training is conducted at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. The Combat Survivor Evader Locator is a radio used by aviators and crew members on personnel recovery missions. The multi-service radio works with a satellite and will identify who is down and where they are located. The equipment is being worked within the Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications. Armed Forces Day attendees were permitted to walk through a mobile work station called the Communications-Electronics Evaluation Repair Team. This portable workstation is manned with a Field RESET Team from CECOM LCMC which sends personnel to brigades, such as Fort Bragg or Fort Hood, when they return from deployment. Upon arrival, the personnel accounts for, inspects and repairs SINCGARS radios and night vision devices to bring them up to standards within the specified RESET timeline. This portable workstation is equipped with all the repair and test equipment necessary to inspect and RESET the equipment.

AFD

From front page

as well as exhibits by historical groups and organizations that support the armed forces. Vehicle displays included a high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle; two Blackhawk helicopters; a Stryker armored vehicle, a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle; a Buffalo Surrogate Vehicle from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and a state-of-the-art Weapons of Mass Destruction Elimination operational command post from the 20th Support Command, the Army’s chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive headquarters. As they watched their children explore the vehicles, parents shared their thoughts on the day. “I brought him out here because I wanted him to see what the military is all about,” said Randy Craig, a member of the Havre de Grace City Council, as he showed his son, Donovan, 4, the armored HMMWV. Craig said he found the opening ceremonies impressive. “They did a great job, especially on the uniforms,” he said. At the Stryker vehicle, the Nash Family of Baltimore – one of the Gold Star Families who would be observing the second anniversary of the death of Sgt. Casey W. Nash just two days later on May 18 – expressed their gratitude to APG. “The ceremony was very nice,” said Sandra Nash, the mother of the fallen Soldier. “It was special for me because I got to talk to another mother who had lost a son. Sometimes you feel isolated so it was nice for us to be able to share our thoughts.” Nash’s sister, Sarah, said she was impressed with the attention paid to the Families. “It was nice to be able to talk with a general and politicians and see how much they care,” she said. As they took in the sights and sounds of the day, Dr. Donald and Mrs. Mary Jane Walton, the Gold Star Family of Lt. Col. James J. Walton of Rockville who was killed in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, when his vehicle encountered a makeshift bomb and small arms fire, June 21, 2008, said they found the day’s activities “wonderful.” “It was a wonderful morning,” Walton said. “We enjoyed the band, the displays, and we really liked the uniforms.” Children seemed to have the most fun exploring the Buffalo Surrogate mine clearing vehicle. As he watched youngsters climb in and out of the vehicle, Richard W. Decker, ECBC technical director, explained that the vehicle was made in cooperation with the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, which fielded the MRAP. Decker said that due to high demand for the Buffalo vehicle in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Army route clearance teams scheduled for deployment to OIF were in need of equipment to train on. The task to create surrogate vehicles was brought to ECBC which rapidly developed the first surrogate deployed within 33 days. “It’s actually a five-ton truck with much of the same equipment and the



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS
Staff Sgt. Harry Thompson, an explosive ordnance technician with the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), left, shows the features of an EOD protective suit to Adrienne Howard, an education researcher with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense.

look of the actual vehicle,” Decker said. The BSV features the actual ladder, lights, hydraulic arm, camera, incab display, non-ballistic hull and safety glass found on the actual vehicle as well as upgraded air conditioning and similar interior. The first 5-ton truck was shipped to ECBC in June 14, 2006, and the first BSV was shipped to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. July 15, 2006. “Because of it, our troops have something to train on so they can go into theater fully prepared,” Decker said. Success of the original surrogates has led to an ongoing production fleet of 35 BSVs. **Army Technology on display** At the Base Realignment and Closure display, Syreeta Gross of MCFA Planning and other representatives of the APG Transformation Office briefed visitors, answered questions and presented an APG 2012 video that included before-and-after renditions of how certain areas of the installation will appear after the transformation’s conclusion. “People were most interested in job opportunities and C4ISR construction,” Gross said. MCFA owner Rebecca Fuhrman of Bel Air, who attended her first Armed Forces Day with her son Zachary, 10, said she thought the entire day was “well put together.” “I was really impressed with the opening,” she said. “It was a moving, wonderful ceremony.” Charles Hough, a representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing APG construction activities said the Baltimore and Philadelphia districts are working together on Phase I C4ISR which involves about “a half-billion dollars in construction.” “The corps is happy to assume this responsibility to further the transforma-

C, heat and serve,” Acheson said. “I think it’s wonderful,” said Viki Marzetti as she and her 10-year-old daughter Crystal, who was a member of the Chapel Hill Sensations, viewed the display. “I like to learn about things that support our troops,” Marzetti said. Another 20th Support Command (CBRNE) exhibit area on Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mitigation, displayed protective suits, sampling kits and chemical detection equipment currently in use to evaluate and remove harmful agents. Staff Sgt. Harry Thompson, EOD technician, Sgt. Joe Casper, CBRN NCO and Sgt. Keon Christopher, decontamination team leader, answered visitor’s questions and demonstrated the equipment. Sgt. Pedro Requena, CBRN NCO, said most visitors were interested in the test equipment and protective measures. “We explained what we do when we come across an unknown substance, how we identify it, and how we protect ourselves against those hazards,” Requena said. “They seemed reassured to know that we train daily on this equipment.” “It’s very impressive,” said Adrian Howard, an education researcher with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, as she viewed the display. “They all seem very knowledgeable of their equipment,” she said. A Mobile Dragon Lab by the 1st and 9th Area Medical Laboratories drew a large audience where Staff Sgt. Eleuterio Baez and Spc. Katie Show explained how the Chemical Warfare field lab is used to collect, sample, extract, analyze and report on possible chemical, biological or radiological contaminated samples. “Our mission is to monitor the environment to make it safe for our troops,” said Sgt. Maj. Gerardo Soto of 9th AML. “We can go wherever we are needed and we train regularly with civilian components with like missions.” A guest exhibitor was Sy Liebergot, who was the senior flight controller during the Apollo 13 mission crisis, which was made into a 1995 movie starring Tom Hanks. Liebergot, author of the book “Apollo EECOM: A Journey of a Lifetime,” said he spends much of his time on speaking tours sharing his story at grade schools, colleges and universities around the country. He said most people who stopped by wanted to talk about Apollo 13. “Some engineers wanted to discuss the details of the mishap,” he said, “and I had a nice talk with some RDECOM Soldiers.” He said that he focuses on more current issues while lecturing because, “a lot of them weren’t even born yet; it’s a story from their parents and grandparent’s generation. “I’ve got a lot to write about now,” he added, noting that people can learn more on his Web site, **www.apolloecom.com**. “The best part of what I do is talk to kids,” he said. “This week I talked to more than two-thousand. Watching their reactions to new information is all I care about.” In the Apollo 13 movie, Clint Howard, the brother of director Ron Howard, played Liebergot. Driving the point home about oral health, the U.S. Army Dental Activity offered a Knock Out Tooth Decay toss game for children.

Community Notes

FRIDAY MAY 29 BASKET BINGO

Elkton High School, located on 110 James Street, Elkton, will hold Basket Bingo 10 p.m. Doors open 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person for all paper cards (12 games only); extra packs cost \$5 each. Light refreshments, door prizes and raffles will be available. No smoking allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338, Stephanie, 410-378-2672, or Pat Job, 410-658-5628.

SATURDAY MAY 30 REDSKINS PLAYER TO SIGN AUTOGRAPHS

NFL cornerback DeAngelo Hall of the Washington Redskins will talk about violence prevention and sign autographs during the Violence Prevention Weekend festivities at Festival Park in Aberdeen.

Violence Prevention Weekend focuses on reducing violence in neighborhoods and schools and is hosted by Rev. Dr. James Smith, Word of Life Christian Fellowship Ministries and The DeAngelo Hall Foundation.

Families, youth groups and community service organizations are encouraged to come out and enjoy the food, games, give-aways and displays and to learn more about non-violence efforts led by neighborhood, county and state officials.

This rain or shine event is free and open to the public. Registration is required to plan food and beverage needs.

To register or for more information, call Smith, 410-297-8101 or e-mail violencepreventionaberdeen@yahoo.com.

TRAIL TREK

Enjoy a splendid day hike with

volunteer Eugene Burg along the banks of the Susquehanna or Gunpowder rivers. Bring a snack and water. Registrants will be notified of the meeting location. This free program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 10 to adult. Registration is required.

For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

THE MARSH IN MAY KAYAK TRIP

Paddle the marsh and enjoy all its beautiful color in May. Bring a snack or lunch for a stop on Snake Island. This program will be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SOMETHING'S FISHY!

Spend the afternoon up close and personal with our finned friends. Catch, observe, handle and learn about fish while compiling a personal field guide to the fish of Otter Point Creek. This program will be held 2:30 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Ages 8 to 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$3 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

CANOE AND COLLECT

Canoe through the estuary and stop periodically to collect water quality data. Interpret the data and record it into an online database. This program will be held 2 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY MAY 31 HAVRE DE GRACE GOES TO THE 'ARTS'

The Arts and Entertainment District of Havre de Grace will come alive with music from local musicians, live art demonstration, business special, and more. Patrons who pick up a flyer (available at any participating business), get the flyer stamped while strolling through all the participating businesses listed below and return completed stamped flyers will receive a free ticket to the LPGA Championship (while supplies last) and a chance to win an incredible gift basket. The gift basket will be raffled off at 3 p.m. in the Havre de Grace Visitor Center lobby.

Participating businesses: The Art Rooms Professional Art Supplies, The Arts by the Bay Gallery, Doodads Inc., Island Jack, Jana's Java, Camelot Bridal and Special Occasion Shop, Laurrapin Grille, Tidewater Restaurant, Pencilworks Studios & Gallery, Washington Street Books, Blue Earth Leather, Vincenti Decoys, Riverview Gallery, The Picture Show & Gallery 301 and Salon Marielle by the Bay.

WETLAND WONDERS

What is the big deal about wetlands? Why are they so special? Learn why wetlands are needed and who calls the marsh their home. This free program will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. for ages 8 to 11. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MONDAY JUNE 1 GUNPOWDER TOASTMASTERS MEETING

The Gunpowder Toastmasters will meet 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in building E-4516 Seminar Room. Learn to speak confidently and effectively. Toastmaster's mission is to help people improve their communication, leadership, evaluation, and public-speaking skills in a fun and friendly environment. The Gunpowder Toastmaster's Club meets the first and third Monday every month (unless federal government holiday). The next meeting date is June 15.

For more information, contact Adam Freeland, 410-652-8026 or George Alsfeld, 410-569-1189.

(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Community Notes.)

**NOTICE OF HEARING
FEDERAL WAGE SYSTEM WAGE SURVEY**

WAGE AREA: Baltimore, Maryland
TIME AND DATE OF HEARING: May 28, 2009, 9 -11 a.m.
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED DURING: September 2009
LOCATION OF HEARING: Building 305, Room 211
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5001

PURPOSE: A hearing will be held to permit the presentation of recommendations and supporting evidence by local organizations and individuals concerning the area definition as well as the industries, establishments, and jobs to be surveyed. Any recommendations and supporting evidence must be presented in writing to the Local Wage Survey Committee at or before the hearing. The Local Wage Survey Committee is not authorized to hear or to act upon job classification complaints. Any group representatives or individuals desiring to appear at the hearing should contact the Local Wage Survey Committee for an appointment at the following address:

CHAIRMAN: Donna Skinner
PHONE: 410-306-0296
ADDRESS: Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
ATTN: PECP-NER-G (Skinner)
305 Longs Corner Road,
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5001

The survey will include establishments in the following industries: Manufacturing, Transportation, Communications, Public Utilities and Wholesale Trade.

Firms must have at least 50 employees and be willing to participate.

GRADES AND TITLES OF REQUIRED SURVEY JOBS:

1 Janitor (Light)	5 Warehouse Worker	7 Truck Driver (Heavy)	10 Automotive Mechanic	11 Electronics Mechanic
2 Janitor (Heavy)	5 Forklift Operator	8 Machine Tool Operator II	10 Sheet Metal Mechanic	13 Toolmaker
2 Material Handler	5 Material Handling	9 Machine Tool Operator I	10 Pipefitter	
3 Maintenance Laborer	Equipment Operator	9 Carpenter	10 Welder	
4 Packer	6 Truck Driver (Medium)	10 Electrician	10 Machinist	

The wage area is defined by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as follows:

SURVEY AREA
Maryland: Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard counties

AREA OF APPLICATION: SURVEY AREA

Each Local Activity must post this notice on its bulletin board for at least 10 work days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing. (OPM Operating Manual, Federal Wage System Subchapter S5-6c.)

Post Shorts

The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Canal Creek Study Area.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

USO-METRO holds Deployed Family Fun Day

The USO of Metropolitan Washington and USO Metropolitan Information Exchange Committee and event sponsor HealthNet Federal Services will host a Deployed Family Fun Day, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 30, Burba Lake Park, located on 2300 Wilson Street, Fort Meade, for spouses and children of deployed service members. Activities and entertainment include the teen rock band "The Drive," face painting, laser tag, a giant Moon Bounce, a DJ, clowns, laser tag, crafts, a scavenger hunt and a bike raffle. Lunch and snacks will be served.

Each branch of service will participate in the event to provide resources and information on programs and services available to Families of deployed service members. Active duty service members who will be deploying in the near future are also invited to attend and encouraged to bring their family. This event is free to active duty service members and their Families.

For more information, call 703-805-4277, e-mail Lindsay@usometro.org or visit www.usometro.org.

MCSS announces new store hours

Effective June 1, the APG Military Clothing Sales Store's new hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and closed on Sunday.

For more information, call Jennifer Hubbard, APG MCSS store manager, 410-272-1312.

www.dodtechipedia.mil connects colleagues

The conversation is already under way on <https://www.dodtechipedia.mil>, the new science and technology wiki for the Department of Defense. Connect with colleagues, share new ideas and learn about emerging technical challenges or contribute solutions. With more than 5,900 new users and 730 technology pages, all that is missing are contributions. Everyone can

work together to create a resource that is up to date and valuable to the DoD-Techipedia community.

Joining the wiki is easy. DoD employees, DoD contractors, federal government employees or federal government contractors currently registered with DTIC have immediate access using their CAC or their DTIC User ID and password. If individuals are not DTIC registered users and have a CAC, a link to a quick registration is available on the login page of DoDTechipedia at <https://www.dodtechipedia.mil>. Individuals who do not have a CAC, must register through DTIC registration at <https://register.dtic.mil/DTIC>.

For more information, e-mail dodtechipedia@dtic.mil.

Public invited to APG Army Birthday Ball June 12

The public is invited to the Army Birthday Ball, 6 p.m., June 12 at Top of the Bay on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Tickets cost \$45 per person and will include an evening of dinner, dancing, celebration and fun. Dress is mess dress for military, black tie for civilians, formal wear for ladies. No tickets will be available at the door.

For more information or to RSVP online, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/Store/armyball.html>.

AER Annual Fund Campaign continues

It's not too late to contribute to the 2009 Army Emergency Relief Annual Fund Campaign.

This is the only time each year Soldiers are asked to help their own organization and their fellow Soldiers.

Contributions remain important to allow AER to fulfill its mission of helping Soldiers in time of distress and misfortune. Contributions may be by allotment, cash, or check and will be accepted through May 28 by the AER Campaign Coordinator Maj. Mathieu Petraitis, 410-278-3000. Time may be short but there is still time to contribute. Remember—AER is Soldiers helping Soldiers.

Army Birthday Ball June 16

Register now the 2009 Army Birthday Ball. The U.S. Army Birthday Ball will celebrate America's Army, 5:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., June 13, at the Hilton Washington located on 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

This year's event pays special tribute to noncommissioned officers, the back-

bone of the Army.

Tickets cost \$85 per person with a limited number of discounted tickets at \$40 per person available to GS-7, E-6 (and equivalent NSPS pay bands) and below on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is open to all Army members, National Guard, Reserve, DA civilians, government contractors, Family members, retirees, veterans and invited guests.

Additional details available on the AKO Army Birthday Ball Web site.

234th Army Birthday Specialty Meal June 15

The 234th Army Birthday Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., June 15.

During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The meal rate of \$7 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$5.95 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes: buffalo wings with bleu cheese dressing, grilled steak with sautéed mushrooms and onions, broccoli cheese and rice casserole, barbecue ribs, pizza burger, chili dogs with cheese and onions, chicken tenders, grilled polish sausage, submarine sandwiches, freedom fries, onion rings, potato chips and pretzels, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, baked potato, baked sweet potato and all the fixings, buttered corn, cauliflower combo, Southern style potato and macaroni salad, cole slaw with creamy dressing, assorted condiments, hot dinner rolls, corn bread, assorted breads, Army birthday cake, apple pie, big chocolate chip cookies, watermelon, assorted fresh fruits, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

CPR Classes

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services offer CPR classes on APG.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to

noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Conference Center, building E-4810, Aug. 26, Oct. 21 and Dec. 16.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater July 15 and Nov. 18. Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail raymond.b.campbell@us.army.mil.

Maryland Birdies golf charity to be played at APG

The Maryland Birdies golf club will hold its 2009 Invitational Outing and Golf Tournament at Aberdeen Proving Ground July 18 as part of a 4-day event that begins July 15.

Along with golfing at APG's Ruggles Golf Course and at the Furnace Bay Golf Course in Perryville, participants and non-golfers can sign up for trips to local attractions such as Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Great Blacks in Wax Museum or for a baseball game between the Aberdeen IronBirds and Vermont Lake Monsters at Ripken Stadium July 17.

Birdies golf clubs are community service organizations that began with the Virginia Birdies in 1993. Members include the Canadian, Cape Cod, Georgia, New York City and North Carolina Birdies golf clubs. Each club supports local youth charities in their areas. The Maryland Birdies tournament supports the Havre de Grace Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

About 100 golfers are expected to play. Register by June 1.

To register, or for more information contact retired Lt. Col. Derrick Bryant, club president, 410-939-0299 or e-mail dmispy@hotmail.com.

Register for NSPS training

Upcoming NSPS writing workshops are: • Sept. 9 (B43) and 16 (B44), NB7SUPV – Writing Effective Supervisor Assessments

There is no cost for this training.

For more information or to register, students must submit a training request through CHRTAS <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas/student/> and be approved by their supervisor.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.)

FIRE SAFETY

Commentary: Applying PMCS to barbecue grills



By
HARVEY V. JONES III
Barbecue grills can be dangerous—especially if they’ve seen heavy use and little maintenance.

If you’re in the Army, you’re familiar with Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services, those “before,” “during” and “after” checks you do on your military equipment so it doesn’t blow up, quit running or fall out of the sky. Have you ever thought about doing PMCS on your barbecue grill? Might not be a bad idea, especially since you have a highly flammable gas—propane—very close to your burners.

- Let’s start with the “before” operation checks.
- Uncover your grill and look for any obvious damage which might hinder proper operation. Check for items such as broken knobs, exposed igniter wires or frayed hoses leading from the propane tank to the valves.
 - Check for leaks where the regulator screws onto the top of the propane tank. The best method is to apply soapy water to the area and look for bubbles. If air bubbles appear, you have a leak and need to tighten the regulator BEFORE using. Failing to do so could cause an explosion, resulting in injury or death.
 - Don’t store extra propane bottles beneath your grill. If these bottles get hot, they can vent propane right into your burners, which is not a good thing.
 - Make sure your grill is clean and free of burnt, old food. You also might

want to spray your grilling surface with some type of nonstick spray. However, be advised some cooking sprays use a compressed, flammable gas as a propellant. Never use one of these while the burners are ignited.

Now, it’s time for the only “during” operation check.

The most important “during” operation check is to never leave your grill unattended. Fat dripping onto your burners can catch fire and end up burning more than your dinner.

- Finally, the “after” operation checks:
- Turn off the propane tank.
 - Allow the flame to go out and then turn off the knobs on the main unit.
 - Allow the grill to cool for at least 10 minutes.
 - Use a cleaning brush to scrape any burned food off the grill grate.
 - Once the grill has fully cooled, wash it with warm, soapy water and then rinse it off to remove any remaining food.
 - Close the lid and cover for later use.
 - Keep propane bottles in a shady or cool location outdoors—not inside any structure, including porches or balconies.

When it’s time to put away the grill for the season, remember to disconnect the hose from the propane bottle. Ensure you cover the grill’s connections to keep critters or debris from getting inside.

Until the chill ends your fun with the grill, be careful and enjoy.

(Editor’s note: Author is assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.)

No burnt offerings

Story by
FRANK MCCLANAHAN
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Whether cooking with propane or charcoal, the end result is the same — delicious outdoor fare that has Family and friends lined up with their paper plates and plastic utensils in hand. In fact, outdoor cooking has become so popular that, according to The Weather Channel’s Web site, more than half of Americans say they cook outdoors year-round because they enjoy the flavor of flame-broiled cooking so much.

Outdoor grilling can be a fun and relatively safe activity, but there is an element of risk for serious injury and property damage for the uninitiated, unprepared or careless. The following guidelines are provided to help minimize risks and ensure grilling experiences are always fun, safe and successful.

Grilling with propane

At the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s urging, an industry standard providing several safety features in gas grills, hoses and connections was adopted in 1995. These features limit the flow of gas if a hose ruptures, shut off the grill if it overheats and prevent the flow of gas if the connection between the tank and grill is not leak-proof. If the grill was manufactured before 1995 and isn’t equipped with these safety features, consider purchasing a new one. If the old standby is still working fine, to try to get a few more years out of it, be especially attentive to these safety tips:

- Set up the grill in an open area away from buildings, combustible materials and locations where children are likely to congregate and play.
- Inspect the gas hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks, and make sure there are no sharp bends in the hoses or tubing that can interfere with the flow of fuel. Periodically, check the inside of the gas tubes for a buildup of spider webs, which create blockages that can result in gas backflowing into the control valves, where it can ignite. (An orange flame indicates an obstruction; flames should burn blue in color.)

- Keep propane cylinders in their upright position and never store spare filled cylinders near the grill or in the home.
- Inspect gas hoses to ensure they are as far away as possible from hot surfaces and hot dripping grease.
- Never use gasoline as a fuel source.
- Do not store a filled cylinder in a hot car or trunk, as heat can increase gas pressure and possibly open the relief valve, allowing gas to escape.

According to the CPSC, each year, there are about 600 fires or explosions that occur from using gas grills, resulting in injuries to about 30 people. In order to reduce these incidents, the National Fire Protection Association published a standard which requires overflow prevention devices on propane cylinders to help prevent propane leaks that can result in fires and explosions. The new propane gas tanks can be identified by valve handles with three lobes, giving them a triangle-shaped appearance. Older tanks have valve handles with five lobes. The requirement for the new cylinders was effective April 1, 2002.

Grilling with charcoal

For charcoal grilling, only use starter fluids specified for those type grills. Follow the directions on the container and never apply additional fluid once the fire has been ignited, which could result in flames traveling up the fluid stream and igniting the container. If the fire is too slow, rekindle it with dry kindling and add more charcoal as needed. Be sure to keep starter fluid away from the grill after it has been ignited and never, under any circumstance, use gasoline as a starter fluid.

Select quality charcoal for quick lighting and a long burn life. Be sure to store charcoal in a cool, dry area and keep bags of instant-lighting charcoal tightly closed. Always remember, grills remain hot long after barbecuing, so, once finished, place the lid on the grill, close the vents and allow the coals to burn out completely. When they have cooled, soak the coals thoroughly with water and dispose of them in a non-combustible container. To reduce the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, never burn charcoal inside the home, vehicle, tent or camper. Charcoal should never be used indoors. And as with propane grilling, always keep children away from the fire.

The Insurance Information Institute recommends that when grilling, be sure to wear a heavy apron and flame-retardant oven mitts that fit high up over the forearm. Also, in the event of a burn, run cool water over the injury for 10 to 15 minutes. Never put butter or salve on burns because they will seal in the heat and cause further blistering. For serious burns, seek medical attention immediately.

As the summer season approaches, more and more backyard chefs will roll out their trusty grills to show off their culinary expertise. By following a few safety guidelines, grillers can ensure any attempt at barbecue perfection doesn’t go up in flames.

FYI

For more information on grilling safety, visit the following Web sites: www.weather.com/activities/homeand-garden/home/grilling and www.iii.org/individuals/home/tips/grilling/.

Food safety reminders

Of course, a successful cookout goes further than just good grilling protocol. Don’t forget to adhere to food safety guidelines to prevent illnesses associated with harmful bacterial contamination. Below are some helpful tips to prevent from serving any food-borne illnesses to guests:

- Give the grill a good cleaning by scouring the grate with a wire brush. Spray the metal cooking grid with oven cleaner and rinse thoroughly. Before each use, apply a non-stick cooking spray to prevent food from sticking. Never apply cooking spray onto a hot grill, as the propellant may be flammable.
- Protect against cross-contamination by keeping raw meats, poultry and vegetables separate.
- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with hot, soapy water during food preparation.
- Keep work surfaces clean and wash or change out utensils to prevent contaminating cooked meat with a utensil used to handle raw meat.
- After meat has been grilled, be sure not to place it back on a plate or platter that held raw meat.

Commentary: Toasty lessons learned

By
DEBBIE JOYCE
U.S. Army Forces Command

Have you ever had your barbecue grill’s igniter fail and you had to find a different way to light the burners? Be careful what you do.

We were barbecuing on the back porch while watching a game on television. The igniter on our grill wasn’t working, so my husband used one of those handy little utility lighters to ignite the burners. That did the trick, and he put the lighter on one of the grill’s side tables while the burgers and dogs cooked. After a few minutes, he went back to the grill to turn the meat. Suddenly, there was a loud “BOOM!” In my side vision, I saw a flash of fire and thought the propane tank had exploded. I was terrified that my husband had been injured, but was grateful when I saw

him standing in the yard unhurt.

The culprit in the explosion wasn’t the grill or propane bottle—it was the utility lighter.

I can’t tell you how far away the lighter was from the burners, but I can tell you it became overheated and exploded.

Fortunately, the only casualty was the singed hair on my husband’s right arm.

We gained a couple of useful lessons learned from this experience.

First, we ordered a new igniter for our grill. It’s not that expensive and beats using alternative means to light the burners.

Second, if we ever use a utility lighter again, I can guarantee it won’t just be laid down—especially near any source of flame.

We don’t need any more toasty lessons learned.

Total recall

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled the following gas grills:

- Perfect Flame™ four-burner gas grill (25 inch by 18 inch) sold by Lowe’s retail outlets. The model may be missing the hose connecting the manifold to the side burner.
- Char-Broil® two-burner gas grill, model number 463720407, sold by Big Lots stores. These grills may contain an incorrect heat shield that could expose the propane tank, hose and regulator to excessive heat and cause a fire.
- Weber Genesis® 320-series gas grills sold by several different retail stores. The stainless steel gas tube to the side burner may have been cracked or broken off during shipping.

For more information or to sign up to receive free Neighborhood Safety Network alerts and posters, go to www.cpsc.gov.

Adventures in driving decision making

Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

“Adventures in driving decision making” is brought to everyone by the Installation Safety Office.

Read the following scenario and then from the options provided, select the best answer. The answers are printed upside down.

Situation #35

It’s a very windy day and you’re traveling on a two-lane country highway. You approach to an intersection and stop at the stop sign. You notice there are some high tension power lines that are swaying dramatically overhead. You’re stopped between two cars and there’s a deep gully on your right. While you’re waiting for the car ahead to move, one of the wires snaps and falls across the top of your car. What should you do?

- A. Get into the back seat, open the door on the opposite side from the wire, step out cautiously, and go for help.
- B. Jump out of the car and go for help.

ANSWER A. No, no, no! You do NOT want to “get into the back seat, open the door on the opposite side from the wire, step out cautiously, and go for help.” This would be fatal. If you did, you’d be electrocuted. You would ground the car through you and the electricity would run through you. You’d be safe to stay in the car because the tires insulate it. Unless you have to go for help sit tight, but if you have to get out, don’t step out — JUMP OUT!

ANSWER B. Yes, “jump out of the car and go for help” is the only correct decision. You could also stay put and use your cell phone to call for help. You never step out of a vehicle that has contact with live electricity.

AFD

From page 14

“It helps to make it fun for them,” said Col. Colleen Shull, commander DENTAC, as she blew bubbles over the children.

While viewing one of the many technology exhibits, Mary Jane Jernigan of Bel Air and her daughter, Rain Weaver, called the day “a great experience.”

“I liked how they recognized the Gold Star Families, and I learned a lot from the uniform pageant,” Weaver said. “It was a real eye-opener for me.”

Jernigan, who is president of the Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, said that she gained even more respect for APG’s Soldiers and leaders.

“Every Soldier we talked to was so knowledgeable; it makes you realize they are much more than just Warfighters,” Jernigan said. “This [day] brought me closer emotionally and intellectually to our Soldiers and their mission. It was a wonderful day.”

As they wandered the fields taking in the sights, Robert and Ruby Billow, accompanied by their daughter Pam, reminisced about their meeting on these same grounds on the same day 60 years ago.

They said they met in the old service club May 16, 1949, and were married six weeks later.

“A friend of mine asked me if I wanted to meet the prettiest girl in Harford County and six weeks later she was my wife,” said Korean War veteran Robert Billow.

“When we heard about Armed Forces Day and saw the date, we said ‘it’s time to go back,’” Ruby Billow added.

The Bel Air couple said that although they enjoyed the festivities, they especially liked looking at the old Ordnance Museum tanks that sit on Fanshaw Field.

“They really brought back memories,” Robert said. “We loved this Armed Forces Day.”

Members of the Ordnance Corps Foundation displayed vintage military vehicles in preparation for the annual Military Vehicle flea market and rally held May 21 to 23 at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen. See next week’s APG News for more coverage.

FMWR activities

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation had a variety of free activities for attendees after the opening ceremony.

Attendees dined on food and beverages while listening to Release, a band that the lead singer, Larry Smith, calls “aggressively eclectic.”

“We figure a good song is a good song regardless of the genre,” Smith said.

He said he is glad the band was able to play at Armed Forces Day at APG for the second year in a row, as most of the members have served in the military. Information on Release can be found at releasemusiconline.com.

For children, there was a bounce house and a climbing wall, along with activities hosted by Army Community Service like caricature painting, face painting and airbrush tattooing, along with information about their free programs offered for the Soldiers and the APG community.

At one tent, Child Youth and School Services sponsored an art project where children designed flags and made patriotic wreaths.

The APG Army Substance Abuse Program had a booth set up with information about their program, and a drunk goggle activity where participants tried to play ring toss while wearing the goggles, demonstrating the diminished hand-eye coordination under the influence of alcohol. At the Aberdeen Area gym, for Soldiers, there was a drunken driving simulator by the Save a Life Tour, a national high impact alcohol awareness program.

The Maryland National Guard was also there to give out information to attendees about their program. A tank and a truck was on display, where attendees could play the video game “Call of Duty.” The tank was built by the National Guard in Havre de Grace.

Several National Guard Soldiers volunteered at some of the FMWR activities that day.

“The National Guard is here for the community,” said Staff Sgt. Leo I. Sturm, MDNG recruiting and retention NCO.

Alice Orwick, whose husband works for the 1st Area Medical Laboratory on the Edgewood Area, remarked that she appreciated that the event was something that her whole Family could enjoy.

“This is a Family oriented program, that is not expensive,” she said. “We can just hang out and enjoy the day.”

Orwick commented that she also wanted to attend the event to show her support of the military.

Robert Dubree, a long time Harford County resident who attended the event with his daughters Katherine, and Cassandra DuBree, said that he appreciated that APG had an event that was open to the community.

“This is the first one I have been to in awhile,” he said. “I think it is wonderful that they are trying to revive it. I used to attend Armed Forces every year,” Dubree said. “I enjoy seeing what is happening in the military, and enjoyed seeing the new technology.”

Chris Lockhart, marketing director for FMWR, said that she was thankful for sponsorship support, making the events possible. “Verizon Wireless and APGFCU (Aberdeen Proving Ground Credit Union) were proud sponsors of FMWR events.”

Armed Forces Day 10K Run

The day started promptly at 7:30 a.m. as nearly 130 runners took off on the Armed Forces Day 10K Run an annual event in its fourth year at APG.

Hosted by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the 10K is sponsored by Charm City Run of Bel Air and is open to the public. About 300 Soldiers, Airmen and Marines from the installation’s Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School followed the runners. Service members traditionally run in mass formations in honor of Armed Forces Day.

Ralph Cuomo, APG sports director, expressed thanks to the FMWR staff, Charm City Run and all others who supported the event, including unit first sergeants from the 16th and 143rd Ordnance battalions and the APG Army Substance Abuse Program, which purchased the Armed Forces Day T-shirts that were given to each runner.

Kelly Dees, Charm City Run event director, said friendly coordination with FMWR has been the key to the event’s success.

“They’re always very helpful and give us great cooperation,” Dees said.

With locations in Annapolis and Timonium as well as Bel Air, Charm City Run coordinates running events for groups like the Navy and police and fire departments, Dees added. “Interest is high for this event, and we’d like to keep it up in the future,” she said.

APG civilians come out on top

Four of the top five awards went to APG employees.

Jeff Damiano, a technical engineer with the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center won first-place overall with a time of 36 minutes, 51 seconds.

A technical engineer with the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, Damiano said he runs regularly on the installation and that he took four minutes off his time from last year’s run.

“I do most of my training here so I was comfortable with the route,” he said.

Second place went to Niko Temple, a National Guard cadet and soon-to-be second lieutenant with the Edgewood Area’s 29th Combat Aviation Brigade.

“I’ve never run this race before but I

had a ‘by’ week so I thought I’d do this for fun,” he said.

Fourth place went to a research chemist with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory. John Escarsega said he runs every day during his lunch break.

“The route was beautiful,” Escarsega said, adding that he was glad to see it wasn’t “too hilly.”

“It makes for a fast course,” he said.

The first female to cross the finish line was July Thompson, a logistics management specialist with the Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate, a division of the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Armaments Command (Life Cycle Management Command) in the Edgewood Area.

“This was my first time running the [10K],” Thompson said. “I usually [circle] the airfield on Edgewood or run a short trail in Bel Air so I was ready for it.

I liked the course. It was nice and flat.”

Third place overall went to John Heller of Bel Air.

2009 APG Armed Forced Day 10K winners:

Male

- 1st place, Jeff Damiano, 36 minutes, 51 seconds
- 2nd place, Niko Temple, 37 minutes, 27 seconds
- 3rd place, John Heller, 38 minutes, 14 seconds

Female

- 1st place, Julie Thompson, 43 minutes, 2 seconds
- 2nd place, Nelly Budrow, 43 minutes, 45 seconds
- 3rd place, Brittany Hiatt, 45 minutes, 36 seconds

For the full list of runners, visit the Charm City Run Web site at www.charmcityrun.com



Photo by RACHEL PONDER, APG NEWS
Amari Bryan, 10, descends from the climbing wall, a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored activity.



Photo by RACHEL PONDER, APG NEWS
Samuel Bishop, 4, waves a flag that he designed during the Child Youth and School Services sponsored art project where children designed flags and made patriotic wreaths.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS
Jeff Damiano, #711, and other runners take off on the 10K Run to kick off Armed Forces Day festivities at Aberdeen Proving Ground May 16. Damiano won the event with a time of 36:51.